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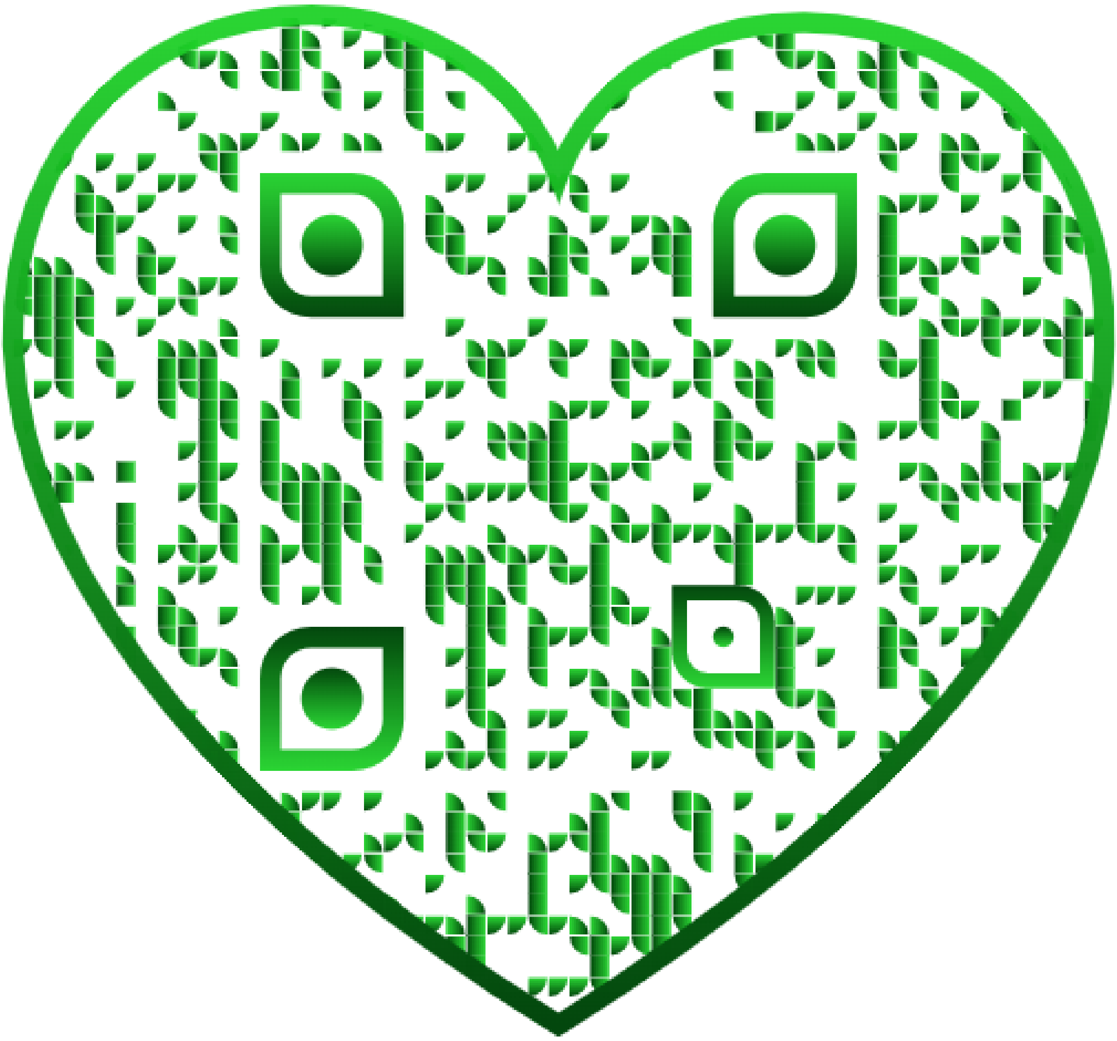

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SUMMARY

A.I.'S POWER PROBLEM: HOW DATA CENTERS HOLD THE KEY TO A GREENER FUTURE 08

APPLE UNVEILED APPLECARE ONE, AND IT OFFERS TWO KEY UPGRADES 36

AI CINEMA - THE NEW ERA OF AI-GENERATED MOVIES AND SERIES STARTS NOW 64

APPLE STRENGTHENS GULF PRESENCE WITH SAUDI ONLINE STORE 104

WHITE HOUSE TO UNVEIL PLAN TO PUSH US AI ABROAD, CRACK DOWN ON RESTRICTIVE... **24**

ELON MUSK: 1M NVIDIA GPUS? NAH, MY SUPERCOMPUTERS NEED THE POWER OF 50M **50**

APPLE, NVIDIA PARTNER ARM HOLDINGS SETS UP AFTER 217% SURGE **92**

IOS 26 BETA 4 BRINGS SILENCE UNKNOWN CALLERS TO CALL SCREENING **114**

APPLE DETAILS HOW IT TRAINED ITS NEW AI MODELS **122**

THE AI BOOM IS NOW BIGGER THAN THE '90S DOTCOM BUBBLE—AND IT'S BUILT ON THE... **134**

FOLDABLE IPHONE TIPPED TO LAUNCH IN 2026, WITH 7.8-INCH DISPLAY **146**

CHINA IS CATCHING UP TO THE US IN BRAIN TECH, RIVALING FIRMS LIKE ELON MUSK'S ... **156**

APPLE'S 'MADE IN INDIA' IPHONE TAKES FLIGHT **168**

DITCH YOUR IPHONE, GRAB YOUR KODAK: HERE'S HOW TO HAVE AN OFFLINE SUMMER **178**

PAYPAL UNVEILS GLOBAL PAYMENT PLATFORM TO SIMPLIFY CROSS-BORDER TRANSFERS... **190**

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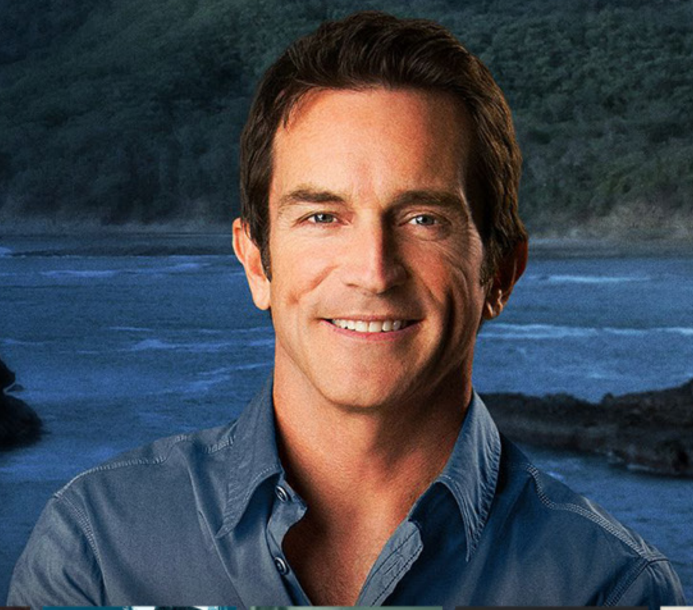

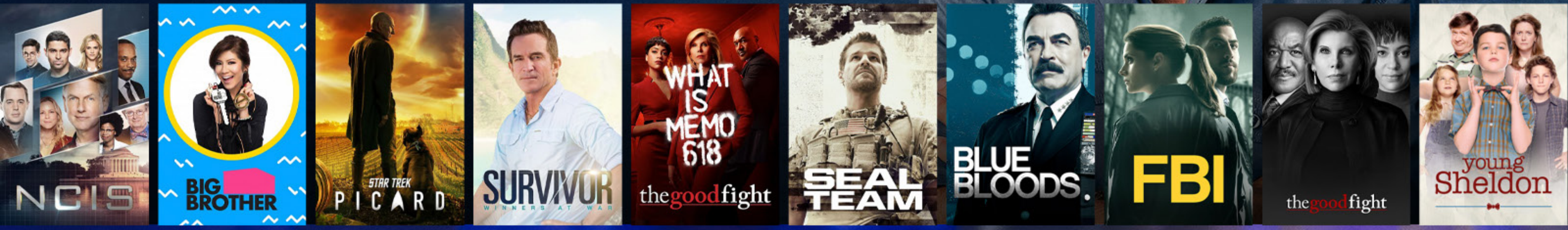
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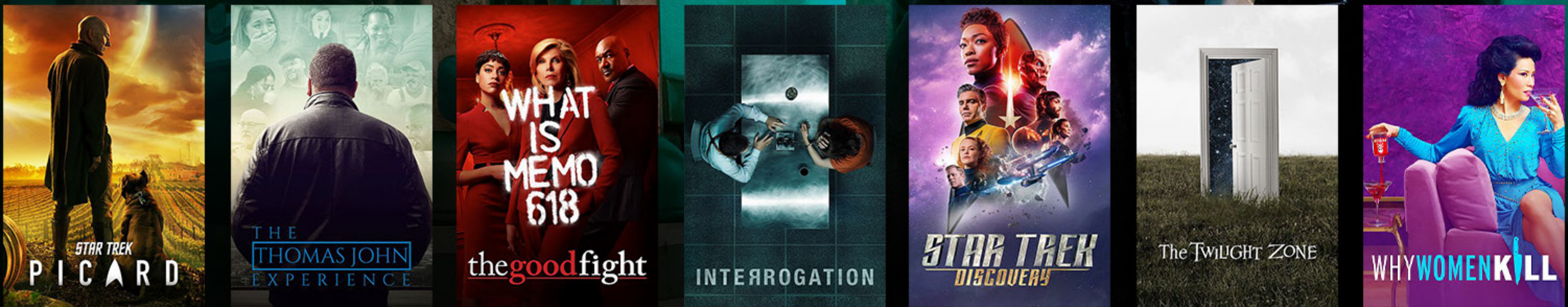
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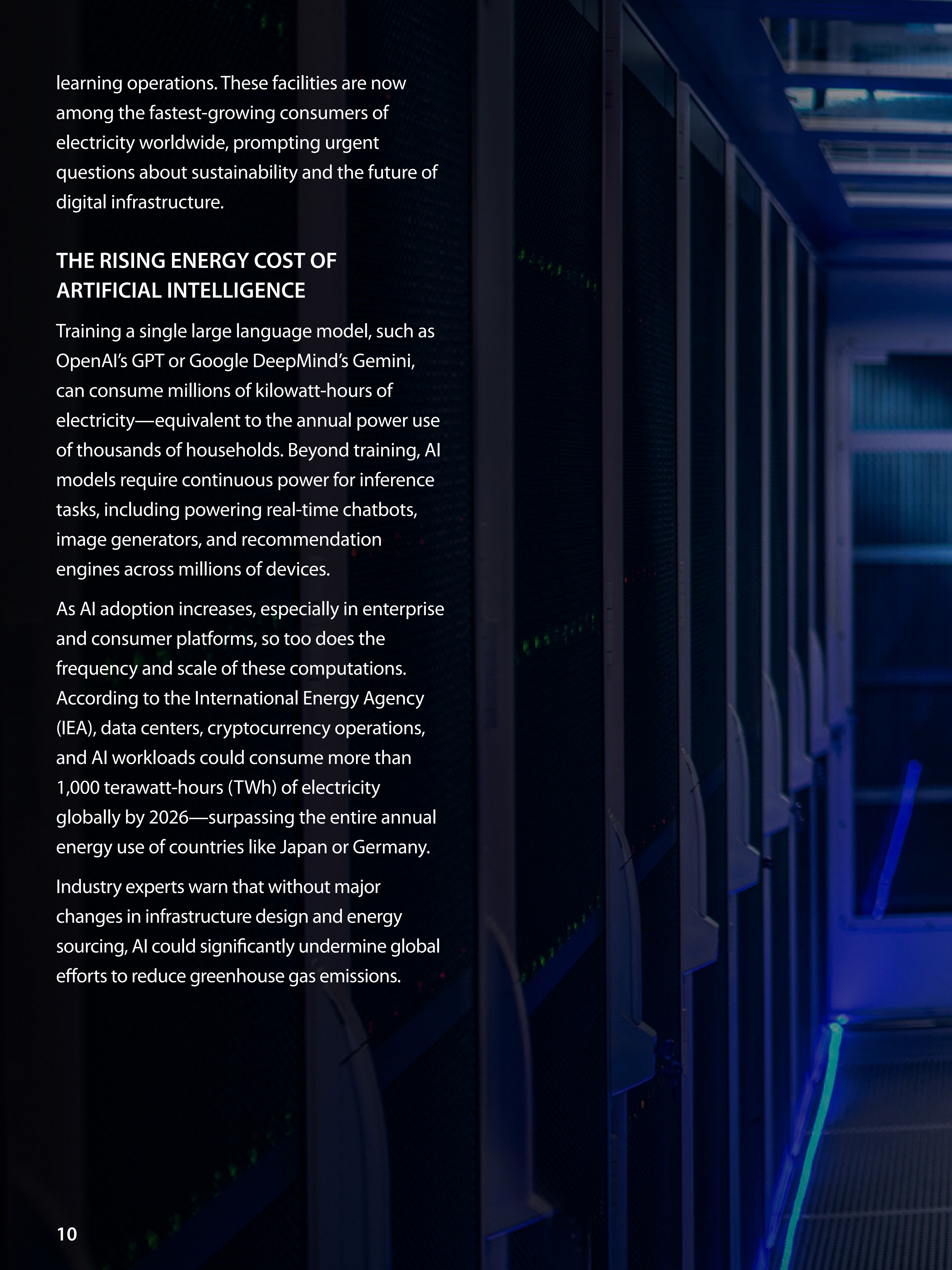
A.I.'S POWER PROBLEM: HOW DATA CENTERS HOLD THE KEY TO A GREENER FUTURE

As artificial intelligence accelerates its integration into nearly every sector—from healthcare and finance to entertainment and manufacturing—it brings with it a growing concern: energy consumption. The vast computing power required to train, deploy, and scale AI models is creating unprecedented strain on global power grids. At the heart of this challenge lies a critical piece of infrastructure: data centers.

AI's rapid expansion has triggered a surge in demand for high-performance data centers capable of supporting large-scale machine



learning operations. These facilities are now among the fastest-growing consumers of electricity worldwide, prompting urgent questions about sustainability and the future of digital infrastructure.

THE RISING ENERGY COST OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Training a single large language model, such as OpenAI's GPT or Google DeepMind's Gemini, can consume millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity—equivalent to the annual power use of thousands of households. Beyond training, AI models require continuous power for inference tasks, including powering real-time chatbots, image generators, and recommendation engines across millions of devices.

As AI adoption increases, especially in enterprise and consumer platforms, so too does the frequency and scale of these computations. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), data centers, cryptocurrency operations, and AI workloads could consume more than 1,000 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity globally by 2026—surpassing the entire annual energy use of countries like Japan or Germany.

Industry experts warn that without major changes in infrastructure design and energy sourcing, AI could significantly undermine global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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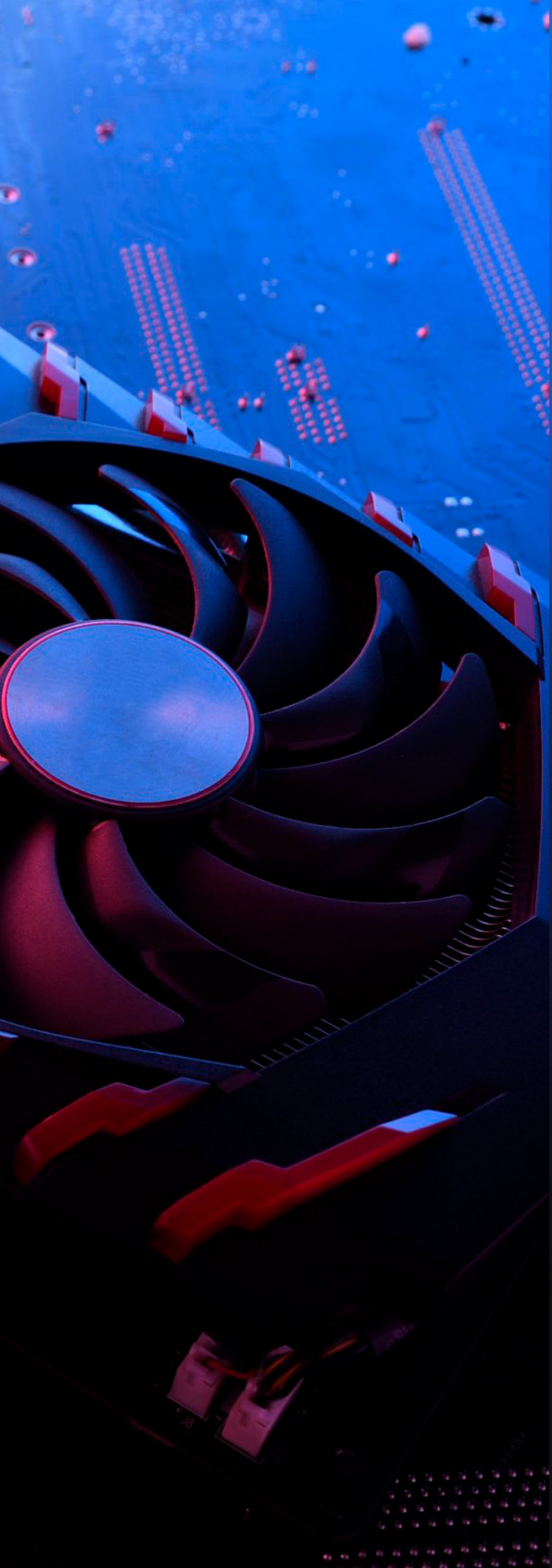


DATA CENTERS: THE BACKBONE OF THE AI ECONOMY

Data centers are the physical engines powering the AI revolution. They house thousands of GPUs and specialized chips, such as tensor processing units (TPUs), that enable complex machine learning computations. But this density of computing hardware generates enormous heat, requiring equally robust cooling systems that often double or triple the total energy draw.

The design, location, and energy supply of data centers have become pivotal factors in determining AI's environmental footprint. Tech giants including Microsoft, Google, Meta, and Amazon are rapidly investing in new-generation data centers with more efficient cooling systems, modular designs, and direct access to renewable energy sources.

In recent months, several companies have announced plans to build hyperscale AI data centers that rely entirely on wind, solar, hydroelectric, or even nuclear power to offset the massive energy needs of modern AI workloads. The industry is betting big on technological innovation to turn data centers from climate liabilities into models of energy efficiency.

GREEN DATA CENTERS: PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

The push for greener AI hinges on transforming data centers into sustainable, low-carbon infrastructure. Key strategies include:

1. Renewable Energy Integration

Many cloud providers are securing long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) for wind and solar projects. For example, Google and Amazon have committed to matching 100% of their data center energy use with renewable sources by 2030. These deals not only support clean energy generation but also stabilize electricity pricing in volatile markets.

2. Advanced Cooling Technologies

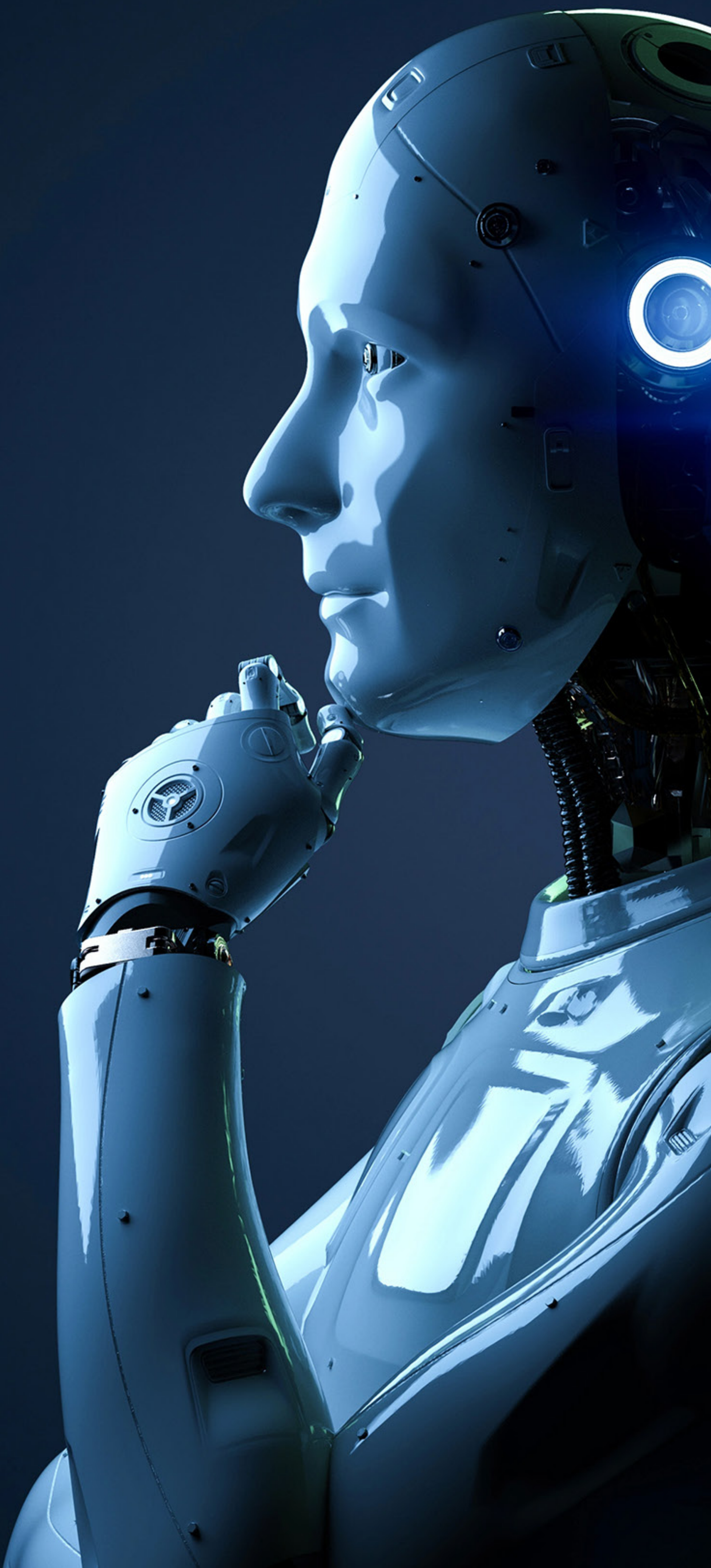
Cooling accounts for up to 40% of a data center's total energy use. Companies are deploying liquid immersion cooling, chilled water systems, and AI-optimized temperature management to reduce thermal waste. Microsoft, for instance, has piloted undersea data centers to harness natural cooling from ocean environments.

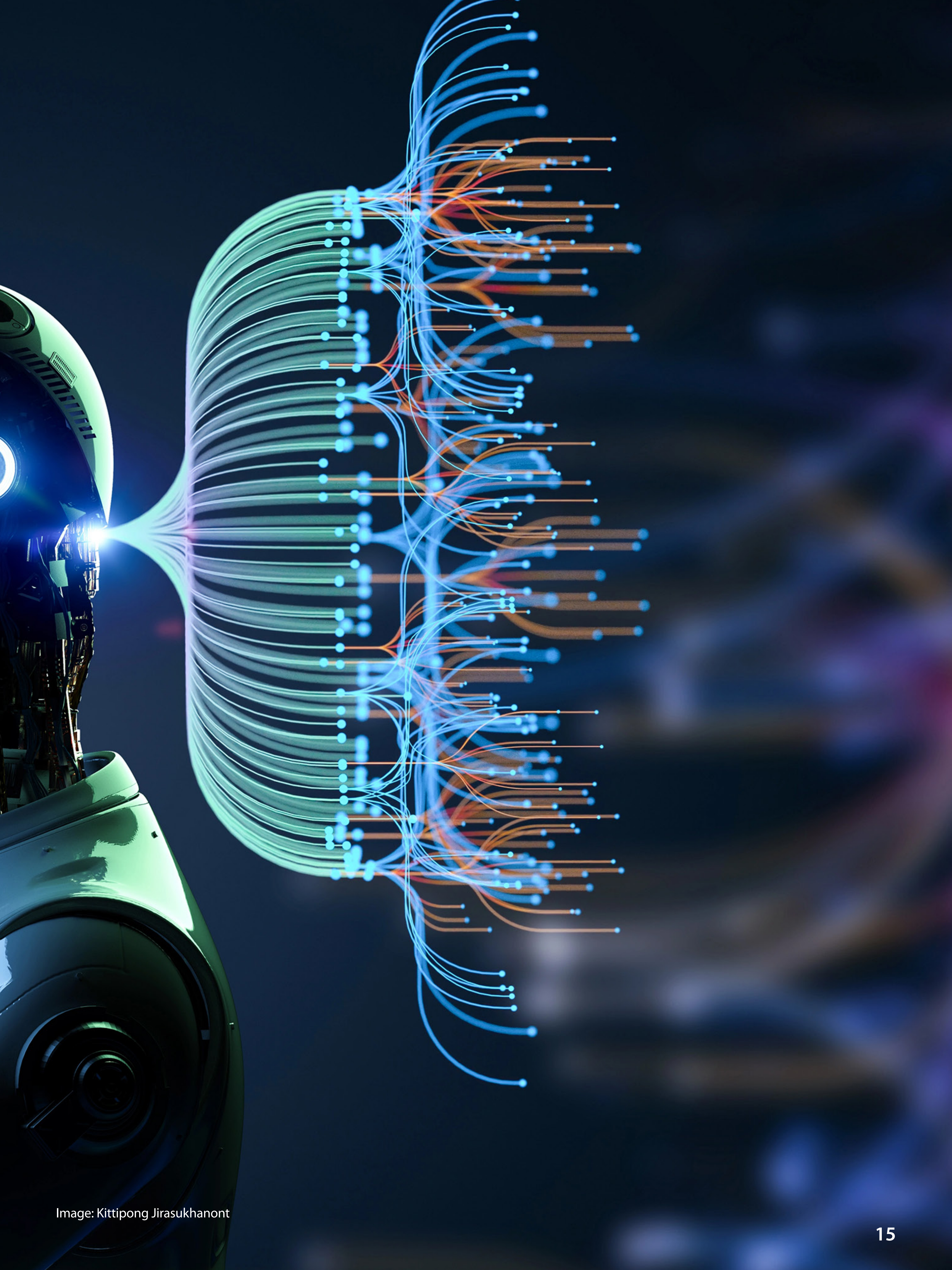
3. Energy-Efficient Chips

NVIDIA, AMD, and Intel are all designing next-generation AI processors that deliver more performance per watt. These chips help reduce the power required for both training and inference, easing the load on data centers without sacrificing computing speed.

4. Modular and Edge Computing

Rather than centralizing all AI workloads in massive data hubs, edge computing strategies distribute processing closer to users, reducing energy-intensive data transmission and latency. Modular data centers can also be deployed rapidly in locations optimized for renewable access and lower grid impact.





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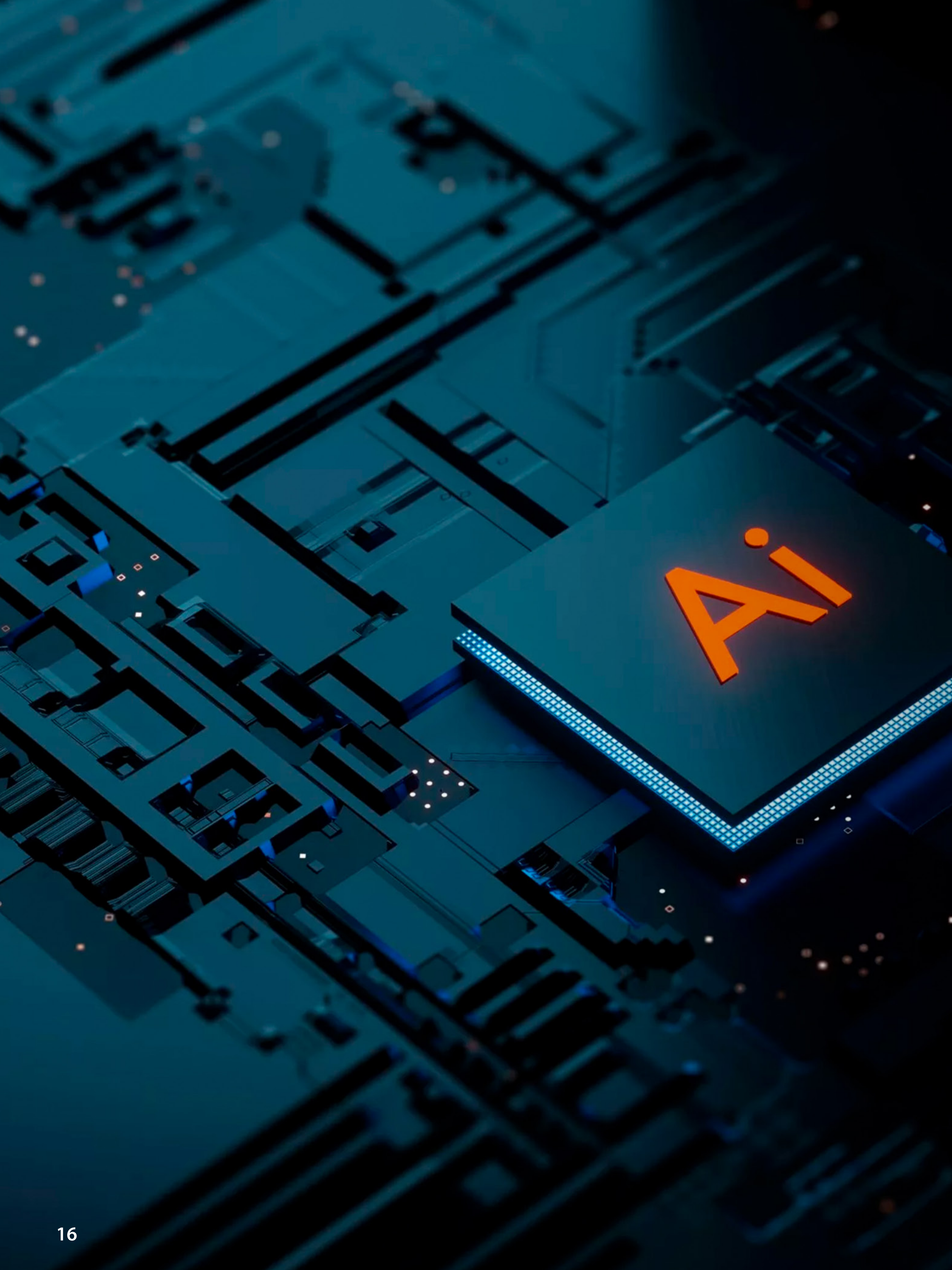
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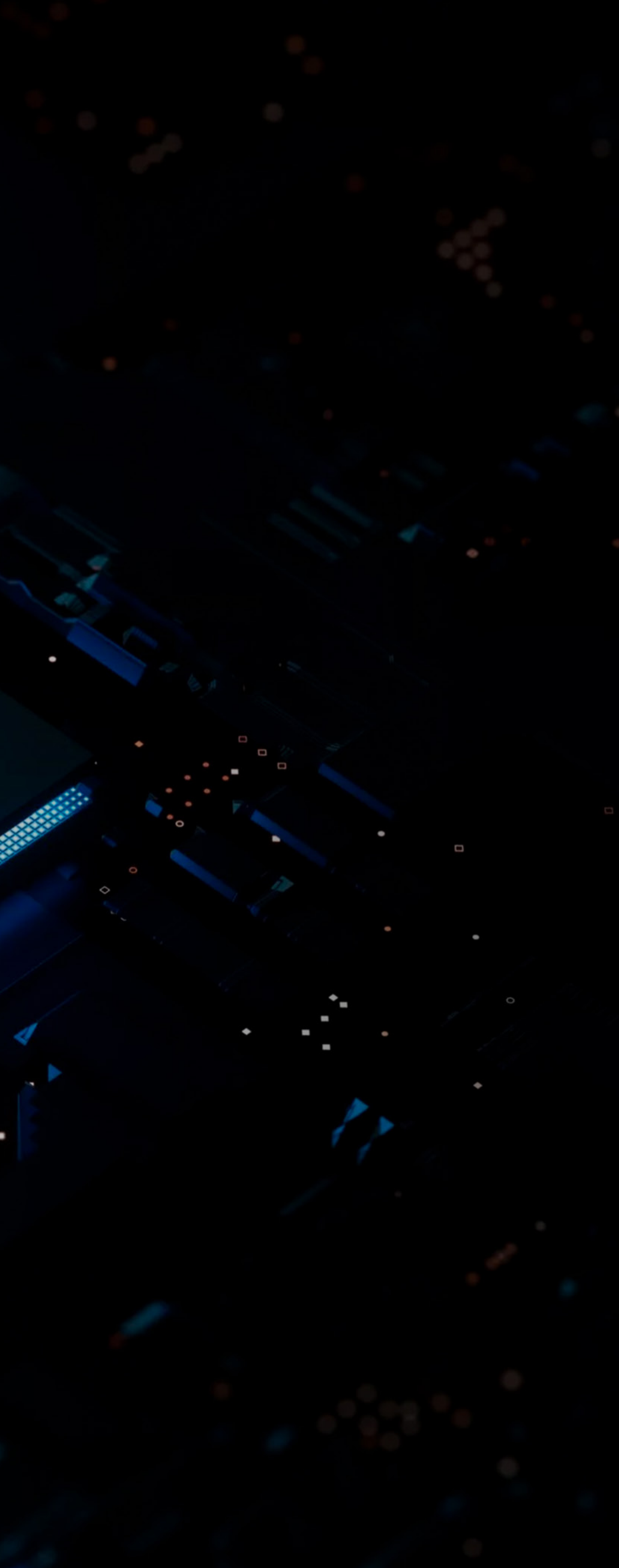

REGULATION AND POLICY PRESSURES

Governments and regulators are beginning to take notice of AI's energy appetite. In the European Union, proposed rules under the AI Act and Green Deal frameworks may soon require data centers to disclose their carbon intensity and demonstrate compliance with energy efficiency targets.

In the United States, the Department of Energy is funding research into low-carbon computing and alternative data center designs. Some states are exploring incentive programs for clean energy adoption in data center construction and operations.

Policymakers are also weighing the trade-offs between digital growth and sustainability goals. While AI has the potential to optimize energy use across sectors—from smart grids to climate modeling—it must not become a driver of unsustainable consumption in the process.

THE ROLE OF AI IN SOLVING ITS OWN PROBLEM

Ironically, AI may also be part of the solution. Machine learning models are already being used to optimize energy distribution, forecast power demand, and improve the efficiency of industrial systems. Within data centers, AI-driven controls can dynamically manage workloads, adjust cooling levels, and reduce unnecessary power consumption.

Several startups are developing AI platforms specifically designed to monitor and reduce data center emissions in real time. These tools analyze performance data to identify inefficiencies, recommend changes, and automate energy-saving adjustments without disrupting service.

If harnessed correctly, AI could help data centers run smarter, cleaner, and more sustainably—ensuring that the same technology responsible for soaring energy demand also contributes to managing it.

LOOKING AHEAD: BALANCING SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

As AI becomes an embedded layer in everything from smartphones to industrial supply chains, the infrastructure supporting it must evolve with sustainability at its core. The global race to build AI-ready data centers will need to be matched by a race to innovate in energy sourcing, efficiency, and environmental accountability.

With demand for AI services showing no signs of slowing, data centers sit at a critical intersection: they are the enablers of the next digital era and the gatekeepers of its ecological impact.

The future of artificial intelligence may well depend on whether the data centers powering it can be reimagined not just as compute farms—but as climate-responsible ecosystems.

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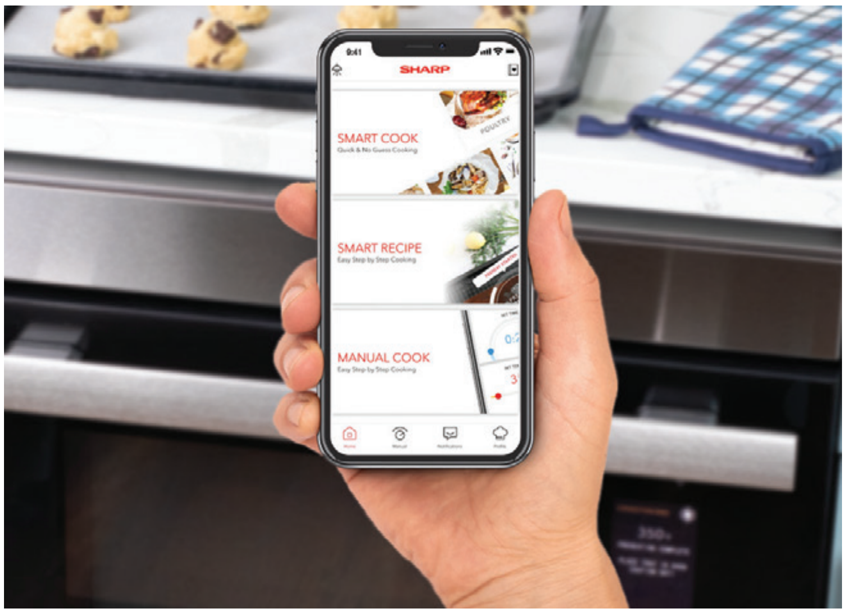
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WHITE HOUSE TO UNVEIL PLAN TO PUSH US AI ABROAD, CRACK DOWN ON RESTRICTIVE RULES, DOCUMENT SHOWS

A groundbreaking astrophysical discovery has revived interest in the controversial "Infinity Theory," following observational evidence of a black hole's birth that challenges current models of spacetime and gravity.

OBSERVATION CHALLENGES RELATIVITY

Astrophysicists have observed the formation of a stellar-mass black hole with properties that appear to defy Einstein's general relativity, igniting global scientific debate. The findings, detailed in a July 2025 study by an international research team and reported by Phys.org, suggest behavior consistent with predictions from the Infinity Theory—a theoretical framework that posits an infinite recursive structure to the universe.

Using high-sensitivity instruments from the Event Horizon Explorer project, scientists captured real-time data from a collapsing neutron star in a nearby galaxy. While the collapse was expected to culminate in a black hole formation aligning with general relativity, the aftermath displayed a transient luminous echo and radiation signature that current gravitational models fail to account for. The anomaly has been interpreted by some theorists as evidence of an "infinite nesting structure" at the sub-Planck scale—a central idea in Infinity Theory.

A THEORY LONG IGNORED

Infinity Theory, first proposed in the early 2000s, has remained on the fringes of cosmology due to its speculative nature and lack of empirical support. It theorizes that the universe consists of recursive spacetime layers—each black hole potentially containing entire universes within,

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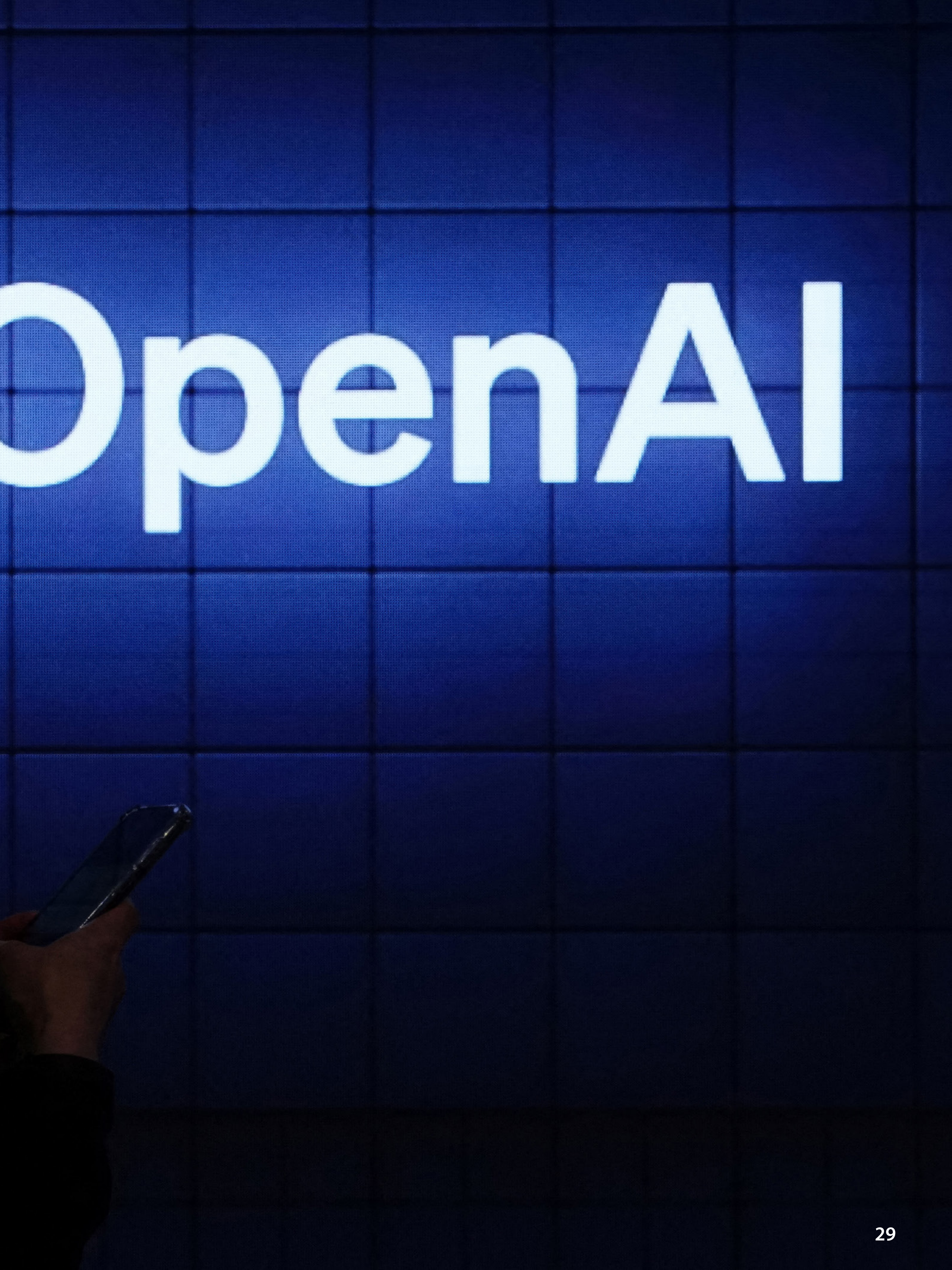
governed by their own physical laws. Until now, the absence of observable phenomena supporting such recursion kept the idea largely theoretical. The recent black hole birth, however, exhibits energy patterns that mimic what Infinity Theory would predict during a nested event horizon transition.

According to Dr. Karima Solovyev, co-author of the study and quantum cosmologist at the European Gravitational Research Institute, "The frequency displacement and radiation interference detected during the collapse aren't explainable with current relativity-based models. Infinity Theory provides one of the few theoretical lenses through which this anomaly makes consistent sense."

The radiation signature showed faint, secondary pulses following the primary gravitational wave—a result not expected from a classical black hole. The team ruled out equipment malfunction and accounted for all known astrophysical interferences. The discovery has led to a flurry of reanalysis at facilities such as LIGO and Virgo, where past data is now being reviewed for similar unexplained secondary emissions.

SKEPTICISM AMID INTEREST

Critics remain cautious. Many in the astrophysics community have emphasized the need for replication and broader observation before validating such extraordinary claims. Dr. Alan Fuchs of Caltech's Theoretical Physics Lab warned that "correlation does not equal causation," noting that rare matter interactions or exotic particle behavior might also explain the data. However, he acknowledged that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the consistency with Infinity Theory's predictions makes the anomaly worthy of deeper investigation.

This development arrives at a time of heightened interest in reconciling quantum mechanics and gravity. Current leading efforts in quantum gravity—such as string theory and loop quantum gravity—have yet to produce testable predictions, frustrating physicists seeking empirical breakthroughs. Infinity Theory, long overshadowed by these larger frameworks, may now gain renewed attention as an alternative path toward a unified model of spacetime.

Supporters of the theory point out that its recursive universe concept could explain several other cosmic phenomena, including the black hole information paradox and the uniformity of cosmic background radiation. By proposing that information is conserved across nested universal layers, Infinity Theory attempts to resolve long-standing inconsistencies in cosmology.

A DIFFERENT COSMIC VISION

There is also philosophical intrigue. Infinity Theory suggests a potentially eternal and self-similar cosmos, where creation and destruction cycles repeat infinitely at every scale. This contrasts with the finite model of the observable universe bounded by a singular Big Bang origin. If future observations continue to validate recursive behavior within black holes, it may not only reshape our understanding of astrophysics but also our conception of reality itself.

Researchers are now planning more targeted observations using deep-field instruments like the James Webb Space Telescope and the soon-to-be-

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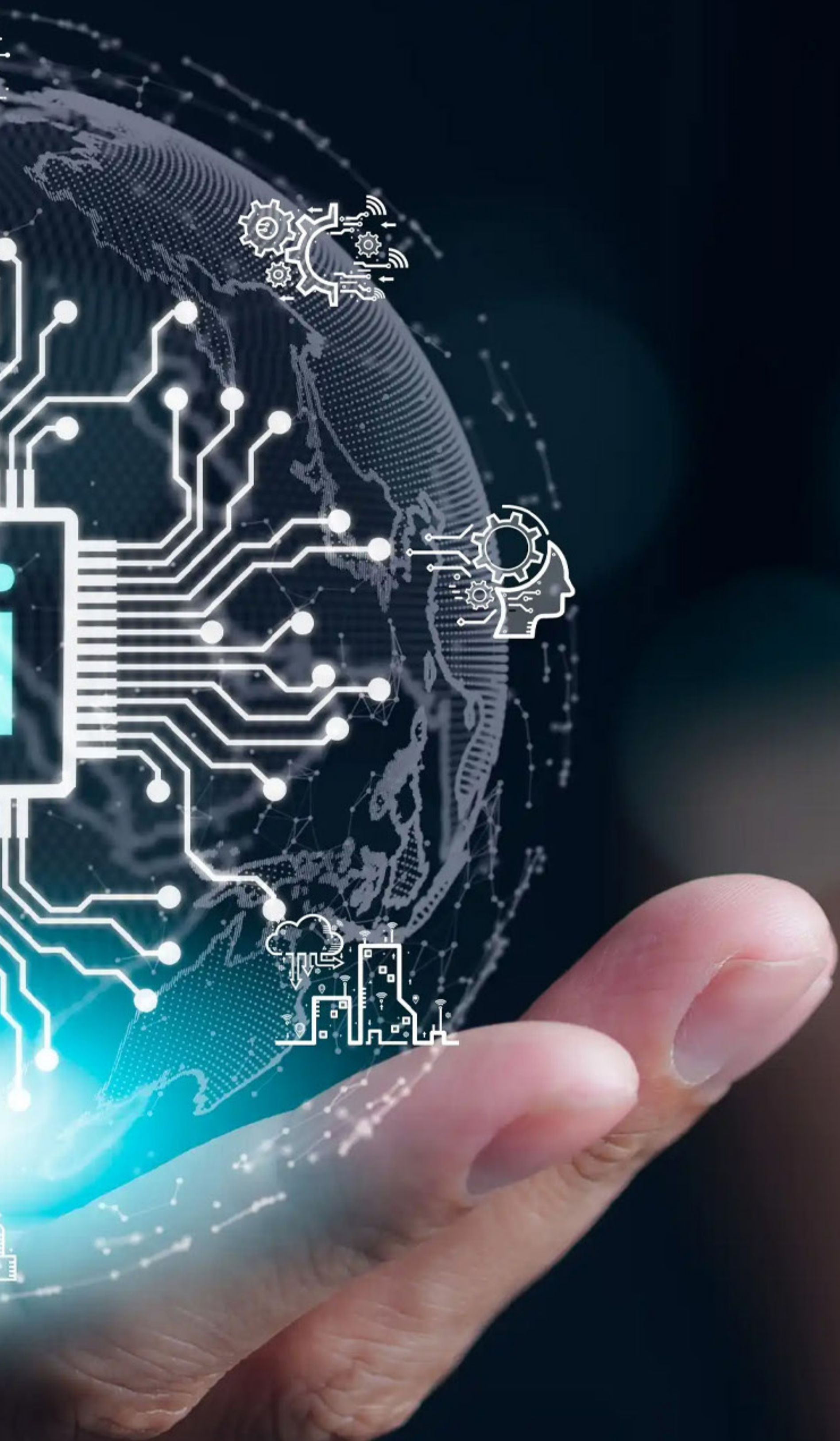

launched Quantum Light Array. These platforms may be able to detect further radiation echoes or nested event horizon effects from other black hole births, offering additional data points to confirm or refute the current findings.

Meanwhile, the global physics community remains divided. While some see the discovery as a potential paradigm shift, others urge restraint, cautioning against premature theorizing without further validation. Still, the scientific method thrives on anomalies—and for now, the black hole birth that defied expectations may become the most important astrophysical puzzle of the decade.

If Infinity Theory continues to gain empirical traction, it could signal the emergence of a new cosmological framework. One in which black holes are not just endpoints, but gateways to deeper structural truths about the universe—truths nested within each singularity, endlessly unfolding.

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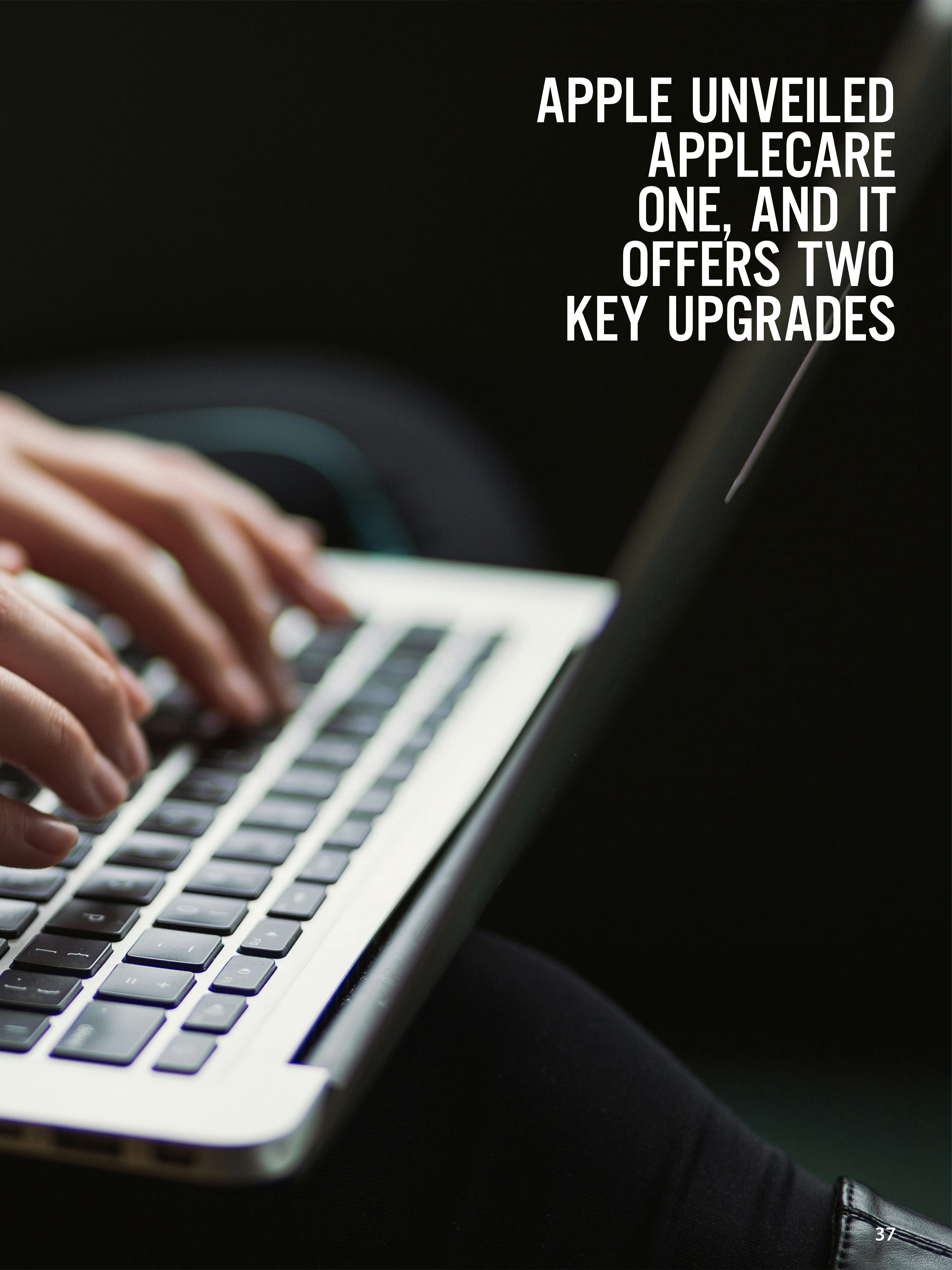
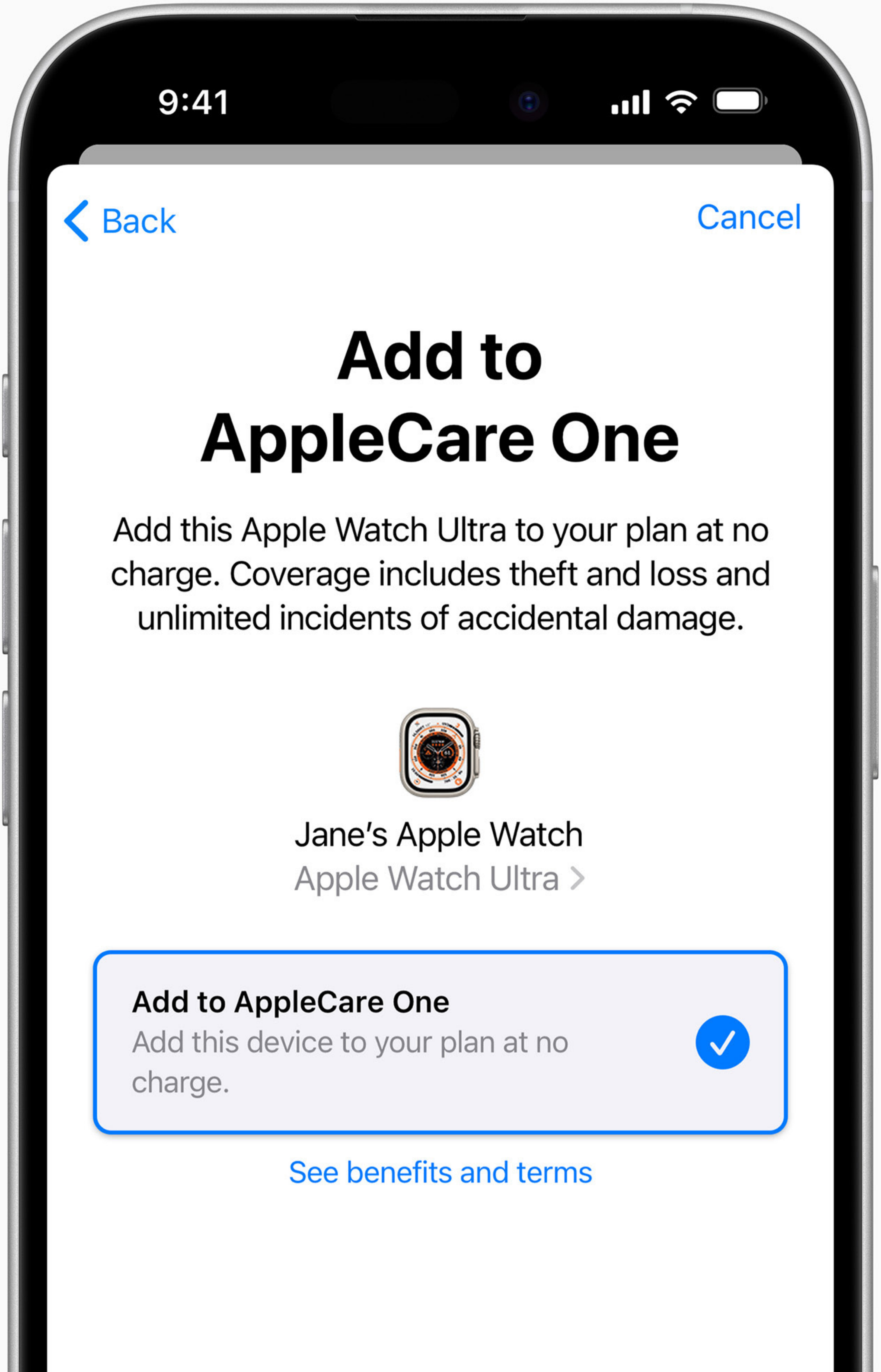


APPLE UNVEILED APPLECARE ONE, AND IT OFFERS TWO KEY UPGRADES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See benefits and terms

Apple has introduced AppleCare One, a newly consolidated protection plan that unifies coverage across multiple Apple devices and adds two major benefits designed to offer more value—and potentially save users money in the long run. The launch marks a significant evolution in Apple's service strategy, combining hardware support and digital services under a single subscription.

Aimed at users who own multiple Apple products or rely heavily on iCloud and other services, AppleCare One streamlines protection plans into a flexible, all-in-one package. With options for individuals, families, and even small businesses, Apple is positioning the new plan as the most comprehensive coverage solution it has ever offered.

WHAT IS APPLECARE ONE?

AppleCare One replaces traditional, device-specific AppleCare+ plans with a centralized subscription that can cover multiple Apple devices—including iPhones, iPads, Macs, Apple Watches, and even Vision Pro headsets—under a single account. Users no longer need to manage separate policies for each product, reducing complexity and eliminating redundant coverage fees.

The plan includes all the benefits of AppleCare+, such as extended warranty, priority support, and accidental damage coverage, but adds two new features: multi-device pooling and discounted repair tiers. Together, these upgrades promise more flexibility and cost control—especially for households or users with multiple Apple devices.

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KEY UPGRADE 1: MULTI-DEVICE COVERAGE POOL

The first major improvement is the ability to pool coverage across multiple devices. Instead of buying AppleCare+ individually for each product, AppleCare One allows users to register all eligible devices under a shared plan. If one device is replaced or retired, the coverage can easily be transferred to a new one without resetting the subscription.

This is especially beneficial for families, students, or professionals with multiple Apple products. It also ensures that less frequently used devices—like a second iPad or a Mac mini—are still protected without requiring a full-price plan. Users can choose a tier that aligns with the number of devices they want to cover, scaling from personal use up to enterprise-level fleets.

KEY UPGRADE 2: DISCOUNTED REPAIR PRICING

The second major upgrade is a new discounted repair pricing model for covered devices. While AppleCare+ already reduces the cost of screen and battery repairs, AppleCare One introduces progressive discounts based on plan tenure and usage history. The longer you maintain your plan—and the fewer claims you file—the more you save on future service events.

For example, a customer who has held AppleCare One for over 18 months with no claims may qualify for steeper discounts on screen replacements, battery swaps, and even out-of-warranty Mac repairs. This loyalty-based pricing encourages users to stay enrolled and

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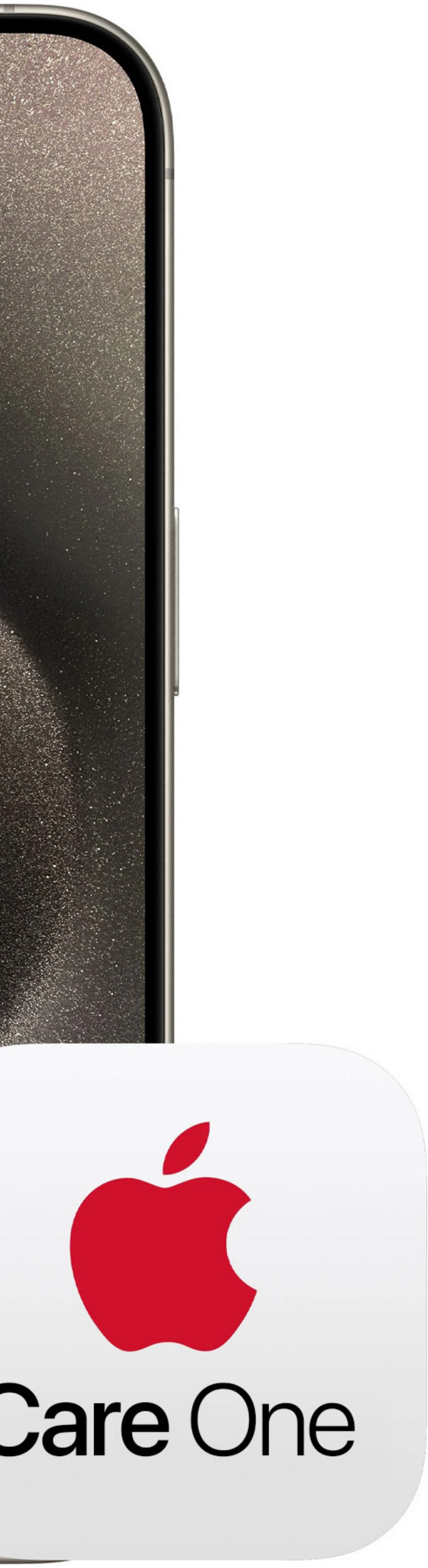

rewards them with more affordable service as their devices age.

OTHER INCLUDED SERVICES

AppleCare One also bundles in support for Apple's digital ecosystem. Subscribers receive enhanced access to Apple Support specialists, 24/7 chat and phone support, and coverage for software issues across iCloud, Apple ID, and key apps like Photos, Safari, and Messages.

Higher-tier plans include iCloud+ storage upgrades, enhanced Find My support for lost or stolen devices, and access to priority Genius Bar appointments. In short, AppleCare One is evolving into a full-service subscription for both hardware protection and digital peace of mind.

PRICING AND AVAILABILITY

AppleCare One is now rolling out in select regions, with global expansion expected by the end of 2025. Pricing varies depending on the number of devices and plan tier selected. For individual users with two to three devices, monthly pricing starts at approximately $19.99, while family plans covering up to six devices start around $34.99 per month.

Business and education tiers—offering fleet-level coverage, priority repairs, and white-glove support—will be available through Apple Business and Apple Education portals later this year.

A SHIFT TOWARD SUBSCRIPTION-FIRST SUPPORT

With AppleCare One, Apple is pushing further into the subscription economy, offering more value by tying device protection into a broader services ecosystem. For users who already pay for iCloud+, Apple Music, or other services, bundling coverage into a single plan may offer both simplicity and savings.

As Apple's hardware matures and upgrade cycles slow, service revenue has become a major growth area for the company. AppleCare One reflects that shift—transforming support and protection into a flexible, customizable service that grows with the user's ecosystem.

For Apple users who value peace of mind, streamlined billing, and multi-device flexibility, AppleCare One may prove to be one of the most cost-effective ways to protect their tech investment in 2025 and beyond.

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ELON MUSK: 1M NVIDIA GPUS? NAH, MY SUPERCOMPUTERS NEED THE POWER OF 50M

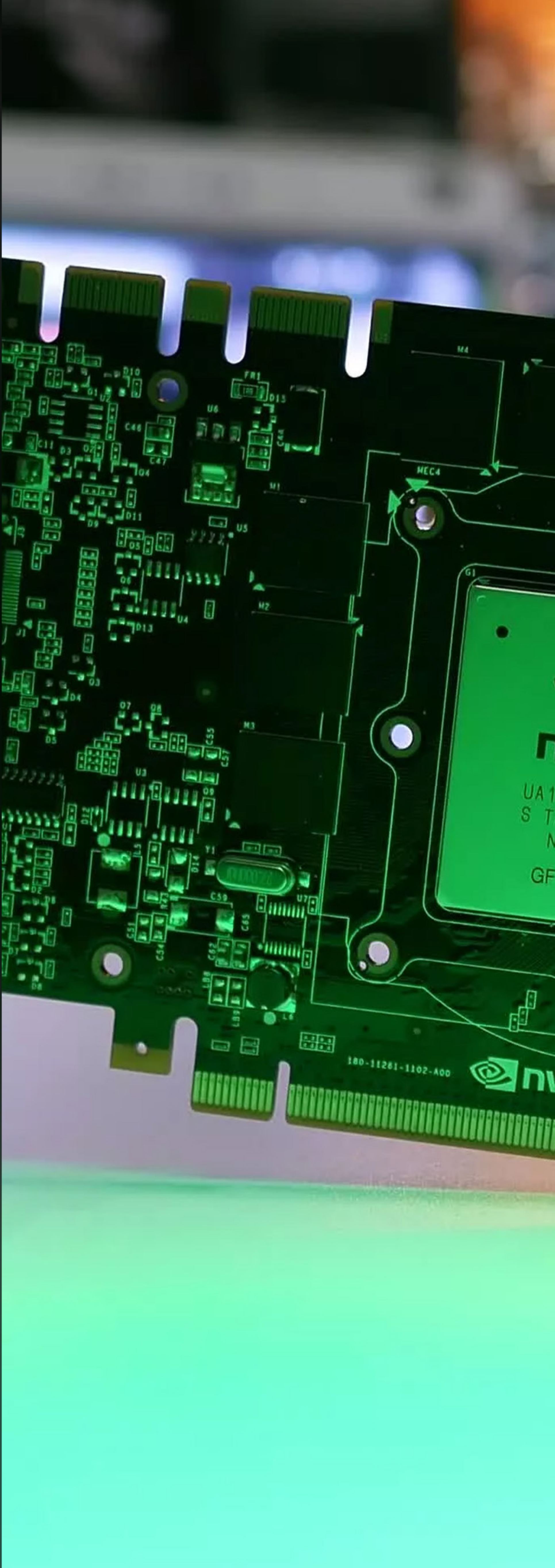
Elon Musk has once again raised eyebrows in the tech world, claiming that the next generation of supercomputers needed to power his artificial intelligence ambitions would require the equivalent of 50 million Nvidia GPUs—a figure that dwarfs current global deployment levels and illustrates the scale at which Musk envisions AI development evolving.

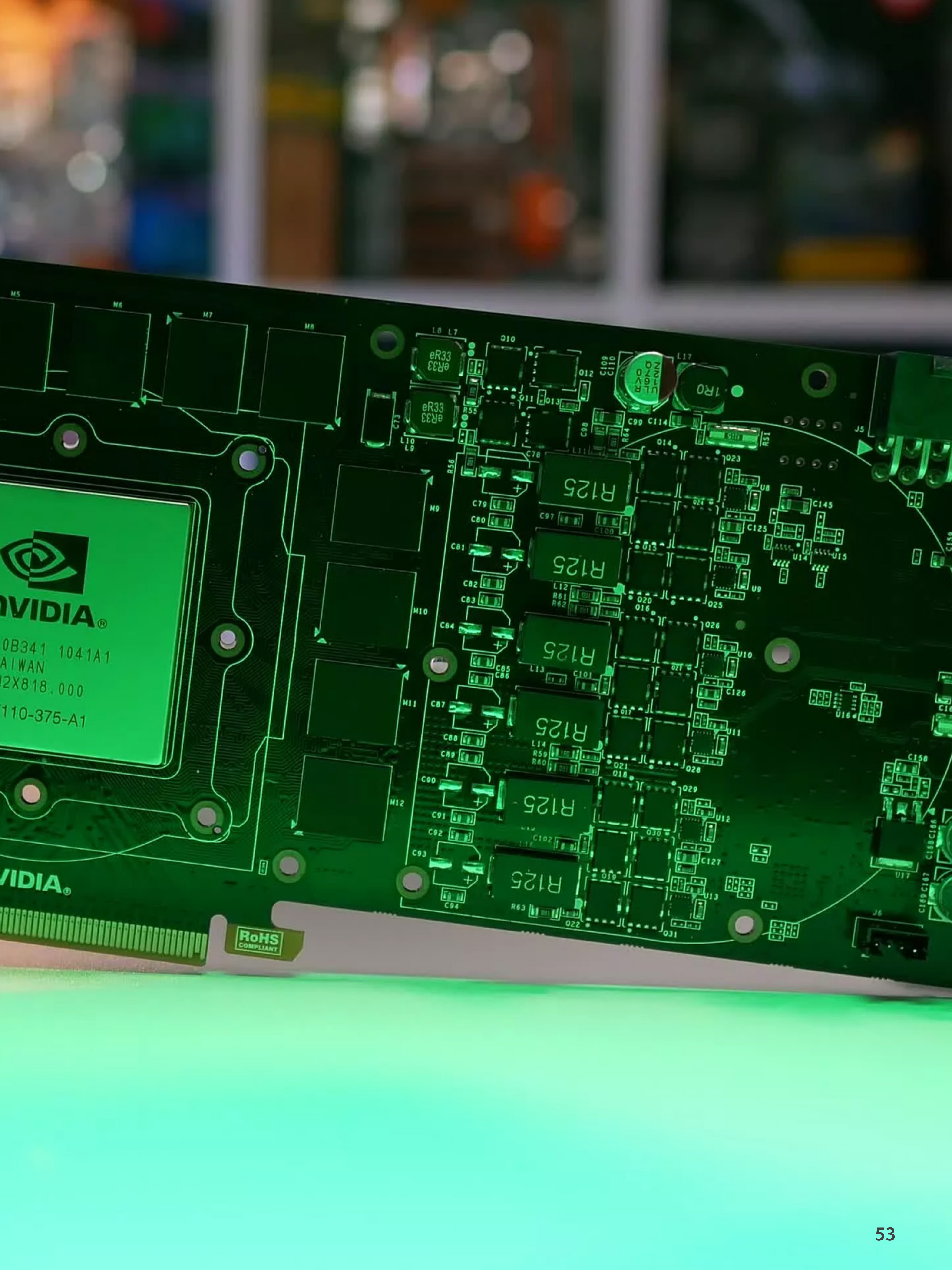
Speaking at a closed investor meeting for xAI, his AI startup launched in 2023, Musk reportedly downplayed recent efforts by other firms that boast access to 1 million Nvidia chips, saying, "That's nothing. To do this right, you need the power of 50 million." The remark, first reported by The Information, highlights Musk's relentless push for computing supremacy amid an intensifying global race to develop more powerful AI systems.

BEYOND SCALE: MUSK'S AI INFRASTRUCTURE VISION

Musk's comments reflect a growing belief that current compute capacity is vastly insufficient for the level of artificial general intelligence (AGI) he envisions. His startup xAI is already building a massive AI training cluster powered by Nvidia's H100 and next-gen B200 GPUs, but according to Musk, this is just the beginning.

He has previously stated that xAI would need "at least 100,000 H100s" to train its next-generation models—placing it among the most aggressive chip procurement plans in the industry. But even that, Musk suggests, is merely a stepping stone toward building an AI supercomputer infrastructure that rivals the scale of national power grids.

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His vision calls for sprawling data centers packed with cutting-edge silicon, backed by advanced cooling systems and powered by low-carbon energy sources such as solar, nuclear, or hydrogen. In Musk's view, the compute needed to reach advanced, multi-modal AGI capable of reasoning, code synthesis, and autonomous planning at human or superhuman levels will exceed anything currently in production or planning.

A SHOT AT THE COMPETITION

Musk's 50-million-GPU remark is also a not-so-subtle jab at rival companies like OpenAI, Google DeepMind, Meta, and Microsoft, all of which have made massive investments in AI infrastructure over the past year. OpenAI's GPT-4 and upcoming models, for example, are believed to have been trained on tens of thousands of Nvidia chips, while Meta has committed to building a 350,000 GPU cluster by the end of 2024.

But Musk appears to believe that even these ambitious efforts are insufficient. "To do real AGI that thinks and reasons with depth, you need exponential power," he told investors. He has also criticized OpenAI—of which he was once a co-founder—for becoming a closed system tied to Microsoft's infrastructure, arguing that xAI will remain open and independent.

This isn't the first time Musk has made bold projections about compute. In late 2023, he warned of a "severe AI chip shortage" and said that the world would soon face power constraints if it didn't start expanding data center and energy infrastructure at an accelerated pace.

ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FEASIBILITY

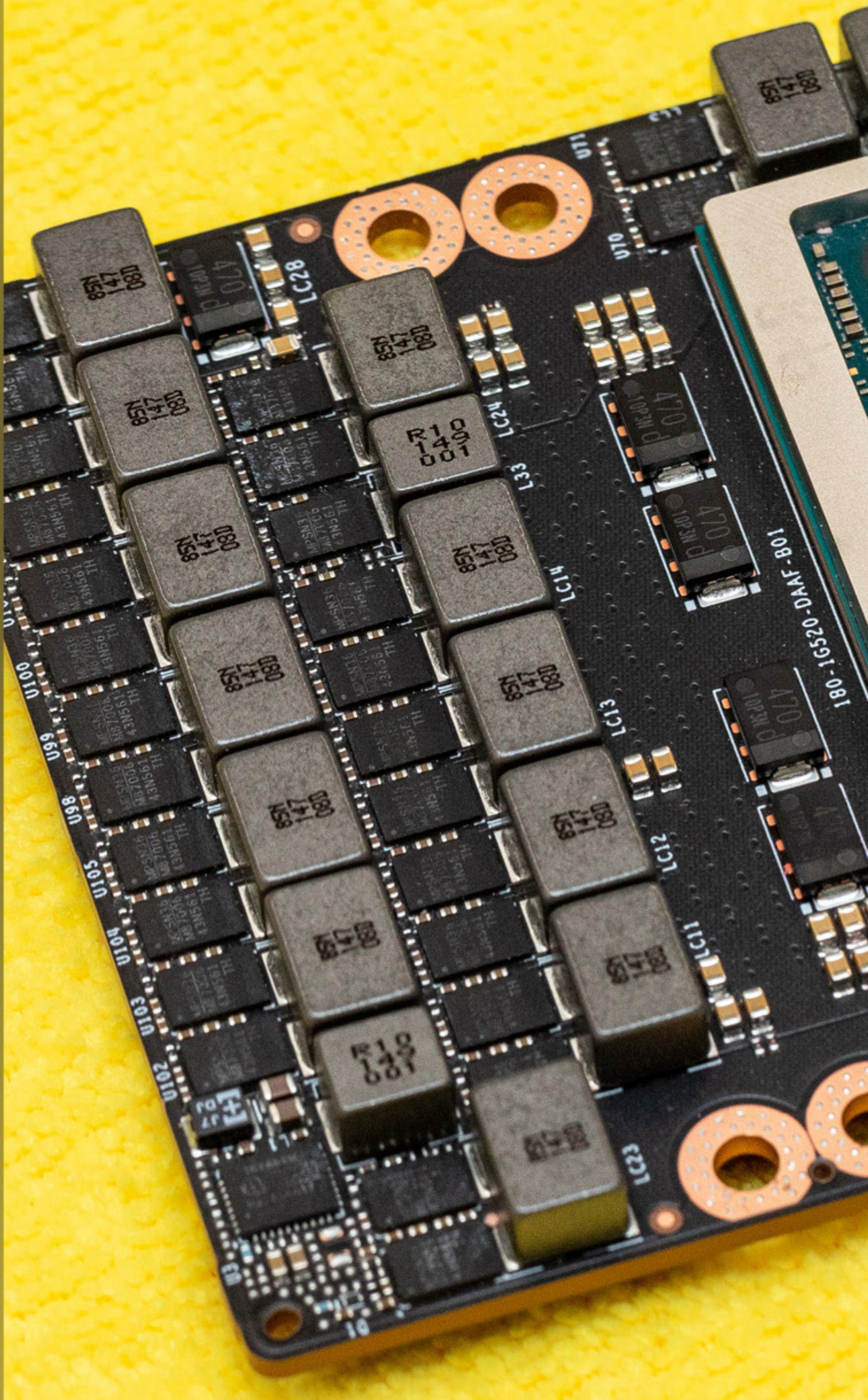
Deploying a system with the compute power of 50 million GPUs isn't just a matter of buying hardware—it's a logistical and engineering feat that would require massive energy input, land, cooling, and network capacity. By comparison, a single modern AI data center can consume as much electricity as a small city. Scaling that to Musk's projected need would demand entire grids' worth of new power generation.

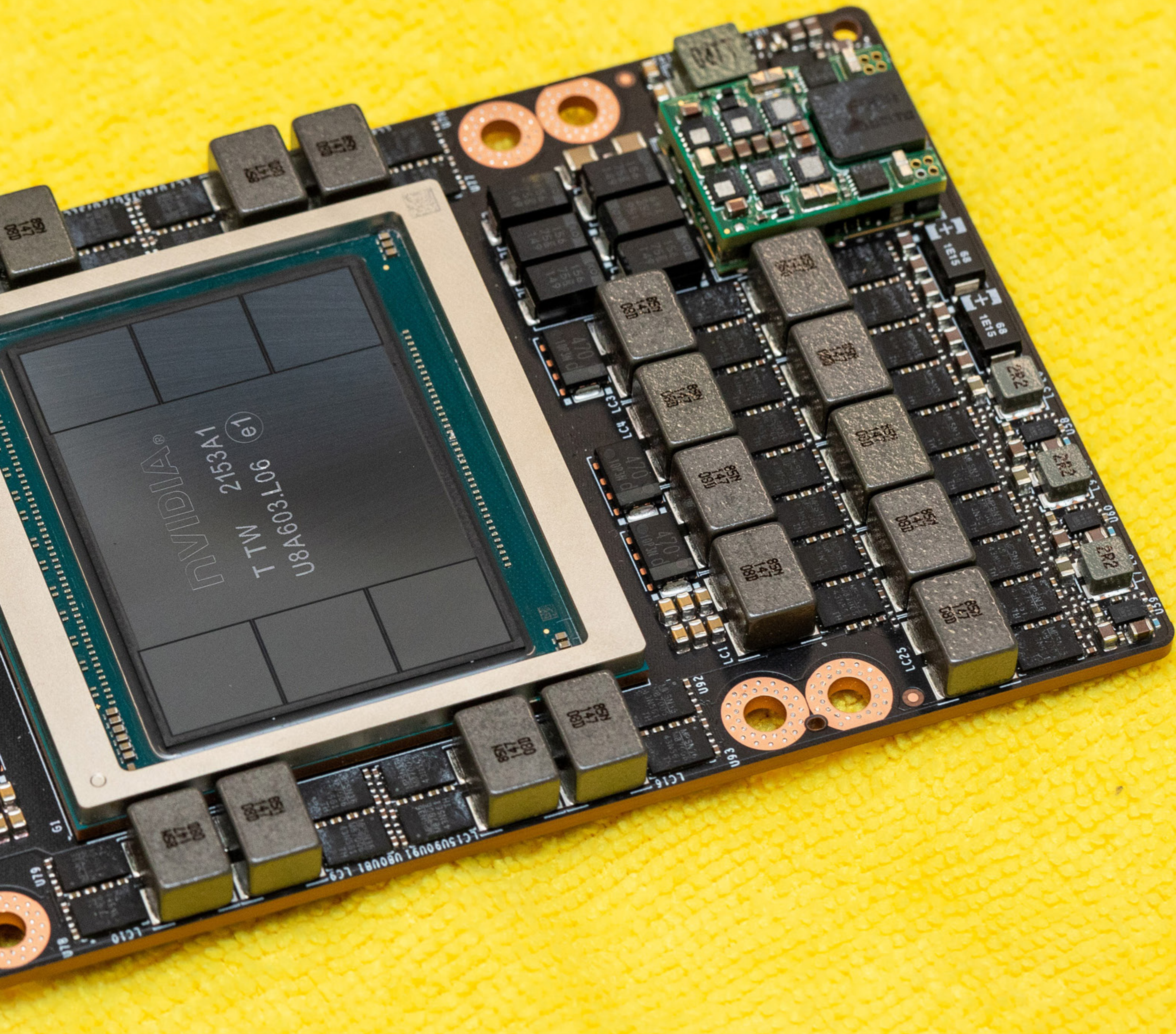
Musk has hinted that his deep ties to Tesla and SpaceX could help mitigate these challenges. Tesla, through its energy division, manufactures Megapacks and solar infrastructure that could support off-grid data center operations. Meanwhile, SpaceX's Starlink could provide high-speed satellite connectivity in remote regions suitable for hyperscale data facilities.

Still, even with such vertical integration, building an AI infrastructure at the 50-million-GPU level would represent one of the most resource-intensive computing projects in history. Experts remain skeptical about the timeline and economics of Musk's projection, though few doubt that xAI will continue to push the envelope on scale.

SUPERCOMPUTING AS THE NEW ARMS RACE

Musk's statement comes at a time when the AI world is rapidly transforming into a compute-centric arms race, with chips and data centers

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emerging as the key battleground. Nvidia's dominance in the AI hardware market has put a cap on how fast companies can scale, with demand for GPUs far outstripping supply for much of the past two years.

New players are now entering the scene—Amazon with its Trainium chips, Google with its custom TPUs, and startups like Cerebras, Groq, and Tenstorrent are all working to challenge Nvidia's grip. But Musk's remarks suggest that even these alternatives may fall short unless the industry fundamentally rethinks how AI supercomputers are built, cooled, powered, and deployed.

He has called for governments and private investors to support "next-level infrastructure" for AGI, warning that without massive capital and energy investment, AI development could stagnate before reaching its full potential.

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR XAI

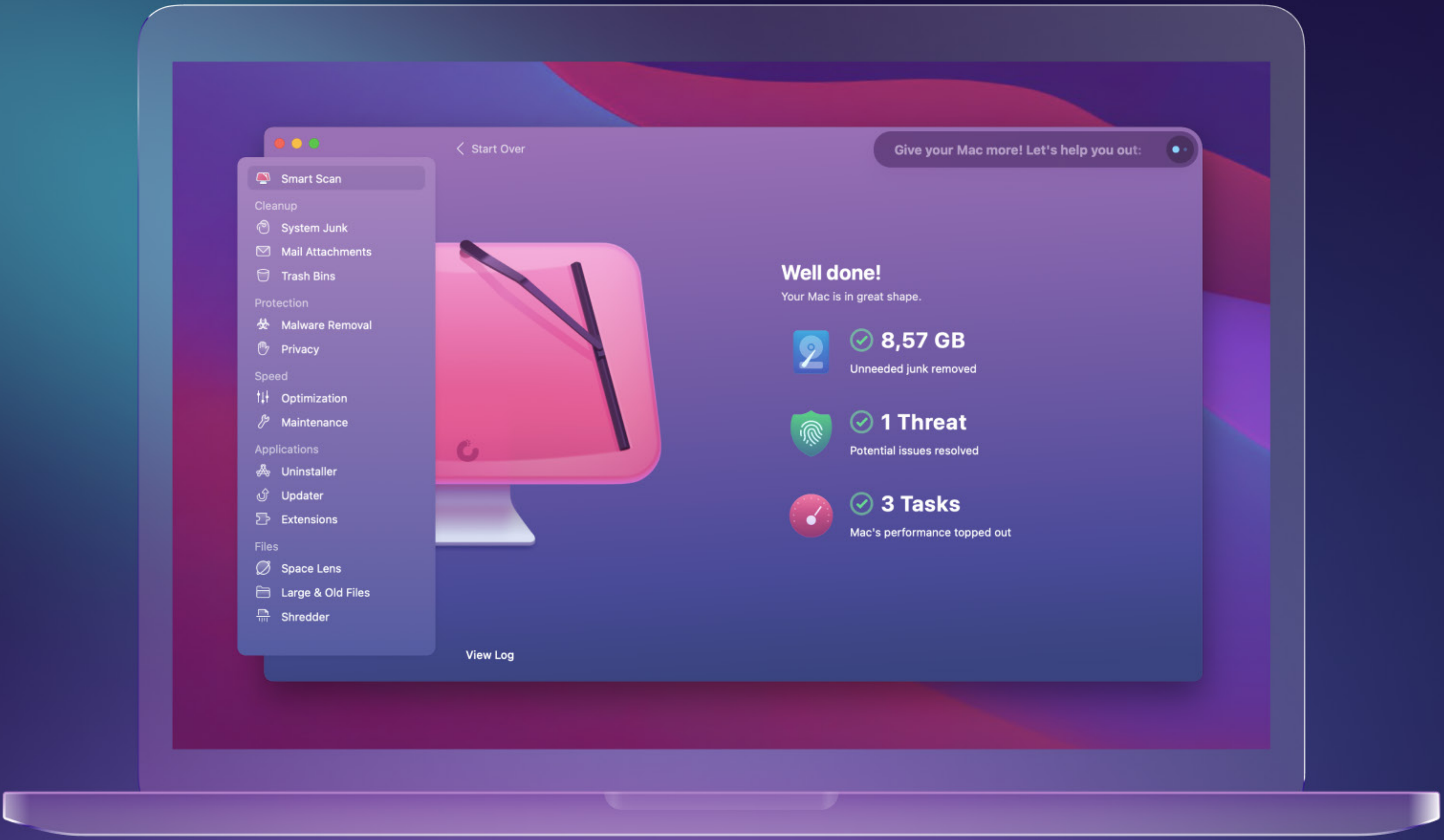
xAI has already launched Grok, its conversational AI assistant integrated into X (formerly Twitter), and is working on multi-modal models capable of vision, speech, and real-time interaction. While the company remains in early stages compared to OpenAI and Google, its access to Musk's capital, infrastructure, and companies gives it a unique edge in pursuing AI at scale.

The company is reportedly building its first "gigacluster"—a term Musk coined to describe a Tesla-inspired, vertically integrated AI data facility capable of hosting hundreds of thousands of GPUs. If successful, it could serve as the prototype for the type of ultra-large-

NVIDIA

scale AI compute Musk sees as essential for reaching AGI.

Whether the 50-million-GPU vision is literal or metaphorical, Musk has made it clear that he views AI infrastructure not as a bottleneck, but as the foundation of the future economy. As the race to AGI accelerates, expect more provocative targets, bold hardware ambitions, and a growing divide between those thinking in thousands of chips—and those thinking in tens of millions.



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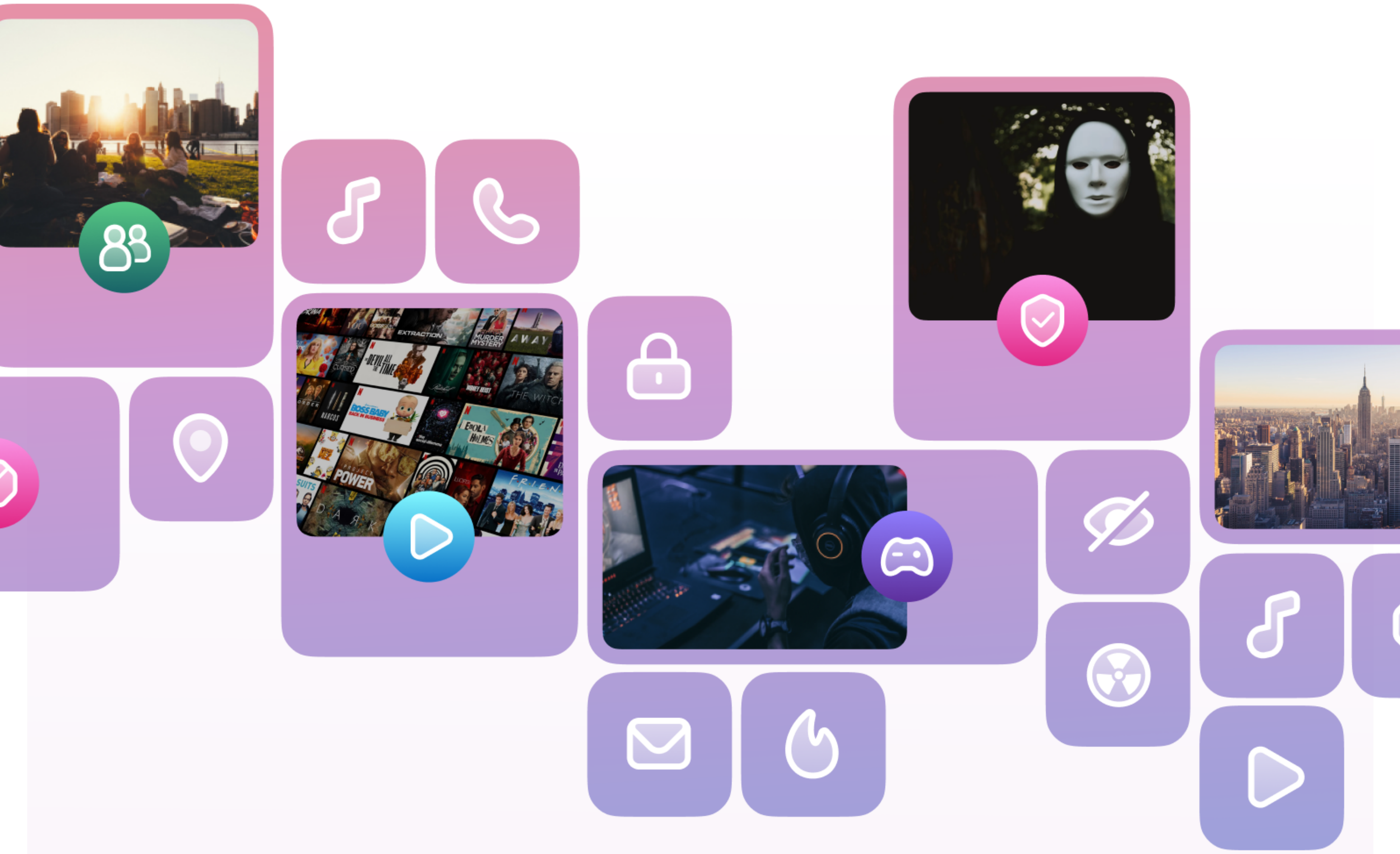

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AI Cinema

THE NEW ERA OF AI-GENERATED MOVIES AND SERIES STARTS NOW

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A new chapter in cinematic history is unfolding. Generative artificial intelligence has moved from experimental novelty to mainstream production tool, reshaping the way movies are made, consumed, and valued. AI-generated cinema is no longer a distant concept; it is here, challenging both the creative process and the business model of modern entertainment.

THE ETERNAUT ON NETFLIX

Netflix has been one of the first major players to embrace AI in content creation. The streaming giant made headlines when its co-CEO, Ted Sarandos, **confirmed that the company used generative AI to create final visual effects in The Eternaut,** an Argentinian sci-fi series based on a beloved graphic novel. Sarandos revealed that a complex scene featuring a collapsing building in Buenos Aires was completed with AI technology. Traditional production methods would have made the scene impossible within the show's budget. By using AI, Netflix was able to deliver the effect ten times faster and at a significantly lower cost. This moment marked the first time Netflix integrated AI-generated footage directly into a show for audiences worldwide.

Sarandos described AI as a tool that helps creators make "films and series better, not just cheaper." **Early reactions have mainly been positive,** with **the series renewed for a second season and audiences embracing the result.** But the timing of Netflix's AI adoption is striking. Just two years ago, **Hollywood was gripped by intense labour strikes,** with artificial intelligence a core point of contention. Writers and actors pushed back against studios' plans to automate elements of creative work, fearing job losses and the erosion of artistic integrity.

Fast forward to 2025, and AI is being openly used in productions while the same companies insist it is simply an efficiency tool, not a replacement for human talent. According to Sarandos, AI is already assisting with previsualisation, shot planning,

and visual effects in multiple Netflix projects. Despite corporate optimism, the industry remains on edge. The benefits of AI are undeniable, but so are the risks to employment, creative authenticity, and intellectual property rights. While Netflix is cautiously testing AI in specific scenes, other companies are building their entire business models around generative AI. **Staircase Studios AI, a new player in Hollywood, plans to produce over 30 films** within four years using proprietary AI technology to slash production costs. The studio's debut project, **The Woman with Red Hair** was made for under $500,000, an amount that would barely cover catering on a traditional blockbuster. The studio aims to tell stories studios typically avoid, focusing on overlooked narratives and underrepresented voices. Human directors, writers, and actors remain part of the process, but AI handles much of the labour-intensive animation and effects work. However, **early public reaction has been mixed.** Critics have pointed out unnatural character movements, off-putting facial animations, and distracting continuity errors. Despite its affordability and speed, the technology still struggles to overcome the **'uncanny valley'** effect, which prevents audiences from fully connecting with digital characters.

The split in public opinion is becoming increasingly apparent. On one side, viewers praise AI cinema for bringing unique, previously untold stories to life. On the other hand, many lament the mechanical nature of AI visuals and express concern about declining production quality.

Even major studios experimenting with AI have faced scrutiny. TriStar Pictures utilized

generative **AI to digitally de-age Tom Hanks and Robin Wright** across six decades in the film "Here." Despite significant investment, the results were met with scepticism, with some reviewers feeling the **technology detracted from the emotional impact of the performances.** Independent creators have also been experimenting with AI in more personal ways. Filmmaker Aleem Hossain produced a short sci-fi film, **Do Bangladroids Dream of Electric Tagore?, for just $300 using AI tools.** While Hossain acknowledged the power of AI to democratise storytelling, he also expressed concerns about its long-term impact on the creative industry.

CONTENT FOR THE MASSES

At the other end of the spectrum, electronics giant TCL has adopted a very different approach. The company has launched **TCL Film Machine,** a production studio dedicated to creating AI-generated films and series for its free, ad-supported streaming service TCL+.

TCL executives openly admit that cost savings and advertising revenue drive their strategy. The company's AI movies are designed to feed algorithm-based content pipelines where viewer engagement is maximised, regardless of storytelling depth or production quality. Early **films showcased by TCL have faced substantial criticism.** Viewers noted awkward dialogue, shifting backgrounds, poorly rendered objects, and inconsistent character designs. Despite these issues, TCL's content team has defended its approach, claiming that the technology is improving rapidly and that continuity errors also exist in live-action films.

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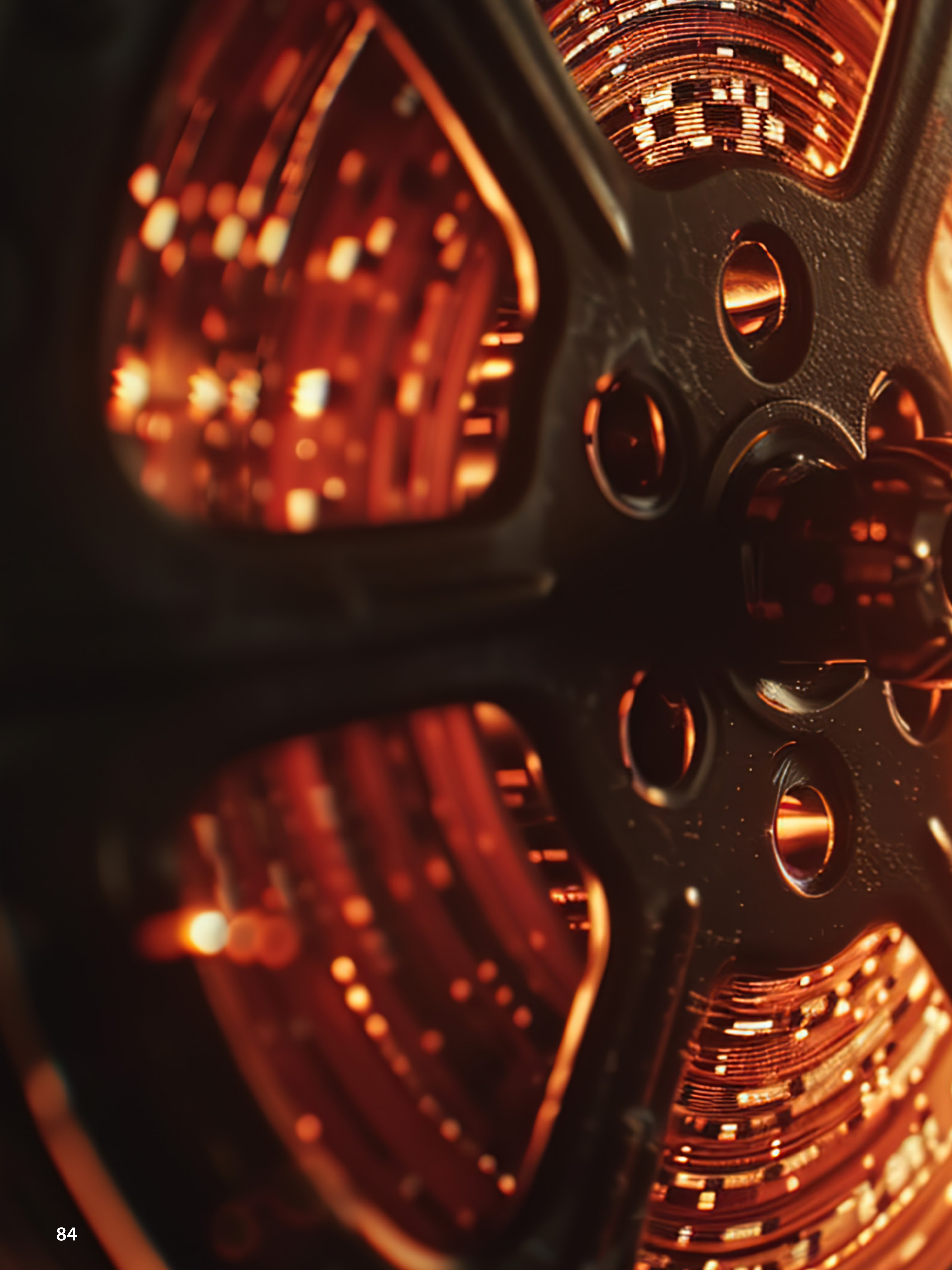
TCL's head of content, **Chris Regina, remains bullish. He believes AI-generated cinema will soon reach a level of quality comparable to traditional productions,** arguing that the next 18 months will see exponential improvements in realism and technical polish.

The emerging AI cinema landscape is already showing two distinct paths. On one side, companies like Netflix and some independent filmmakers are using AI as a supportive tool, complementing human creativity and enabling more ambitious productions on limited budgets. Their goal is to enhance, not replace, the artistry of filmmaking. On the other hand, firms like TCL are pushing towards automated content designed for volume, low production costs, and maximization of ad revenue. This approach prioritises scale over substance and risks flooding the market with cheap, algorithm-friendly media. The difference reflects broader concerns about the role of AI in society. Will it become a tool to empower human creativity, or a shortcut to cut costs, devalue artistic work, and homogenise content?

AI-generated cinema **raises serious questions about intellectual property rights.** Many AI systems are trained on vast amounts of online data, often including copyrighted works without the consent of creators. This grey area has already triggered lawsuits and is expected to dominate legal debates in the years ahead. There are also concerns about employment. Writers, VFX artists, voice actors, and countless creative professionals face the possibility of reduced work opportunities as AI replaces elements of their craft. Environmental concerns are also **growing due to the energy-intensive**

HOLLYWOOD

TCL FILM MACHINE



nature of large AI models. Some studios are adopting ethical AI policies, promising transparency in data use and maintaining human creative leadership. However, sceptics warn that commercial pressures may eventually override these promises.

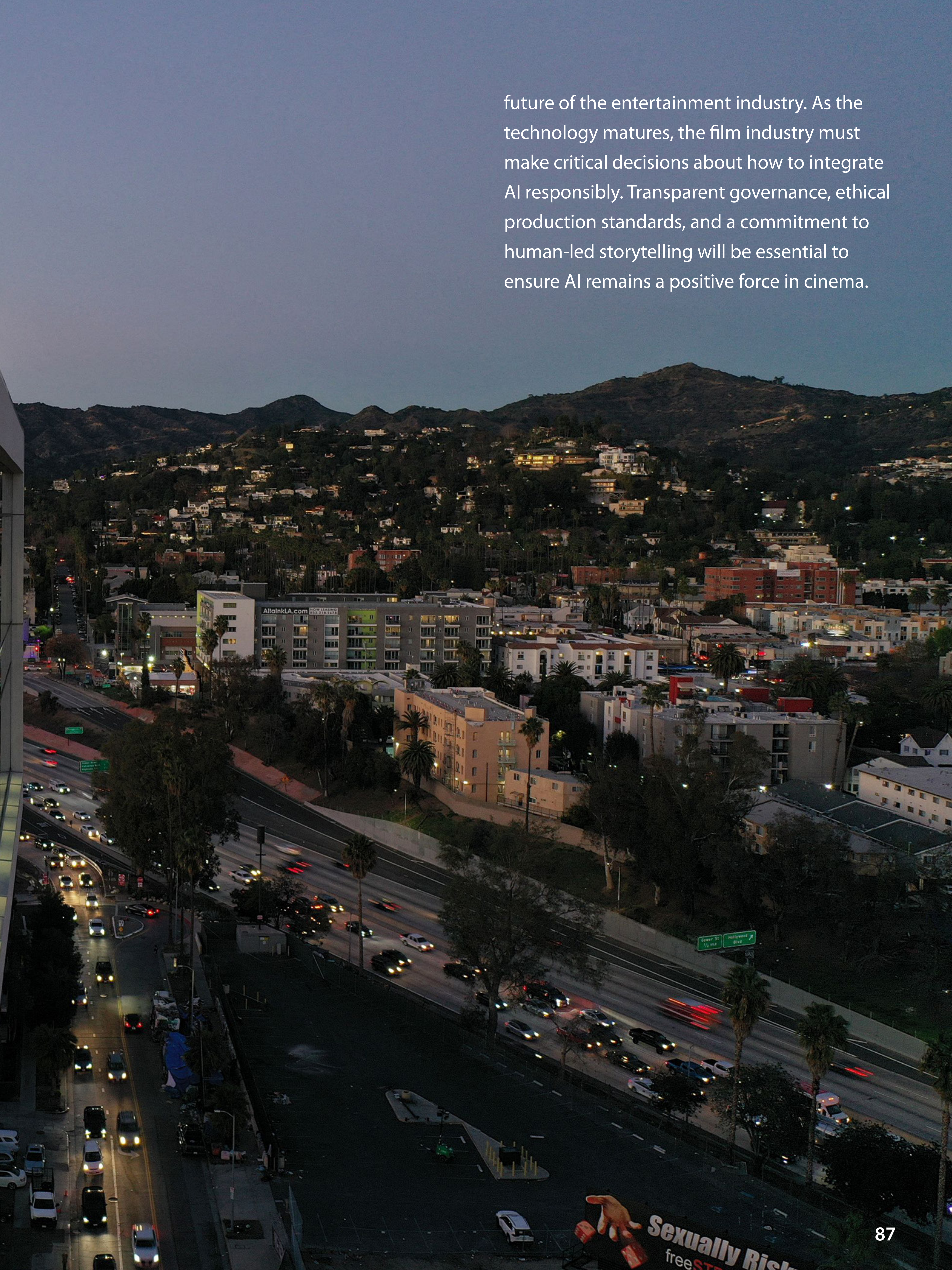
Despite current limitations, AI technology is evolving rapidly. Animations are becoming smoother, lip-syncing is improving, and text rendering is more accurate. Industry experts predict that many of today's criticisms will become obsolete within two to three years. The accessibility of AI tools also means aspiring filmmakers from around the world can now produce high-concept projects without multimillion-dollar budgets. This democratisation could unlock new cultural perspectives and foster greater diversity in storytelling. Yet the risk of oversaturation looms large. Viewers could soon be inundated with repetitive, low-quality AI content, making it harder for meaningful stories to find their audience. One company is already fighting back against this, with **YouTube announcing it would demonetize** 'mass-produced' and 'repetitive' videos, as concern over AI slop grows. Whether other companies will follow suit remains to be seen.

A CROSSROADS

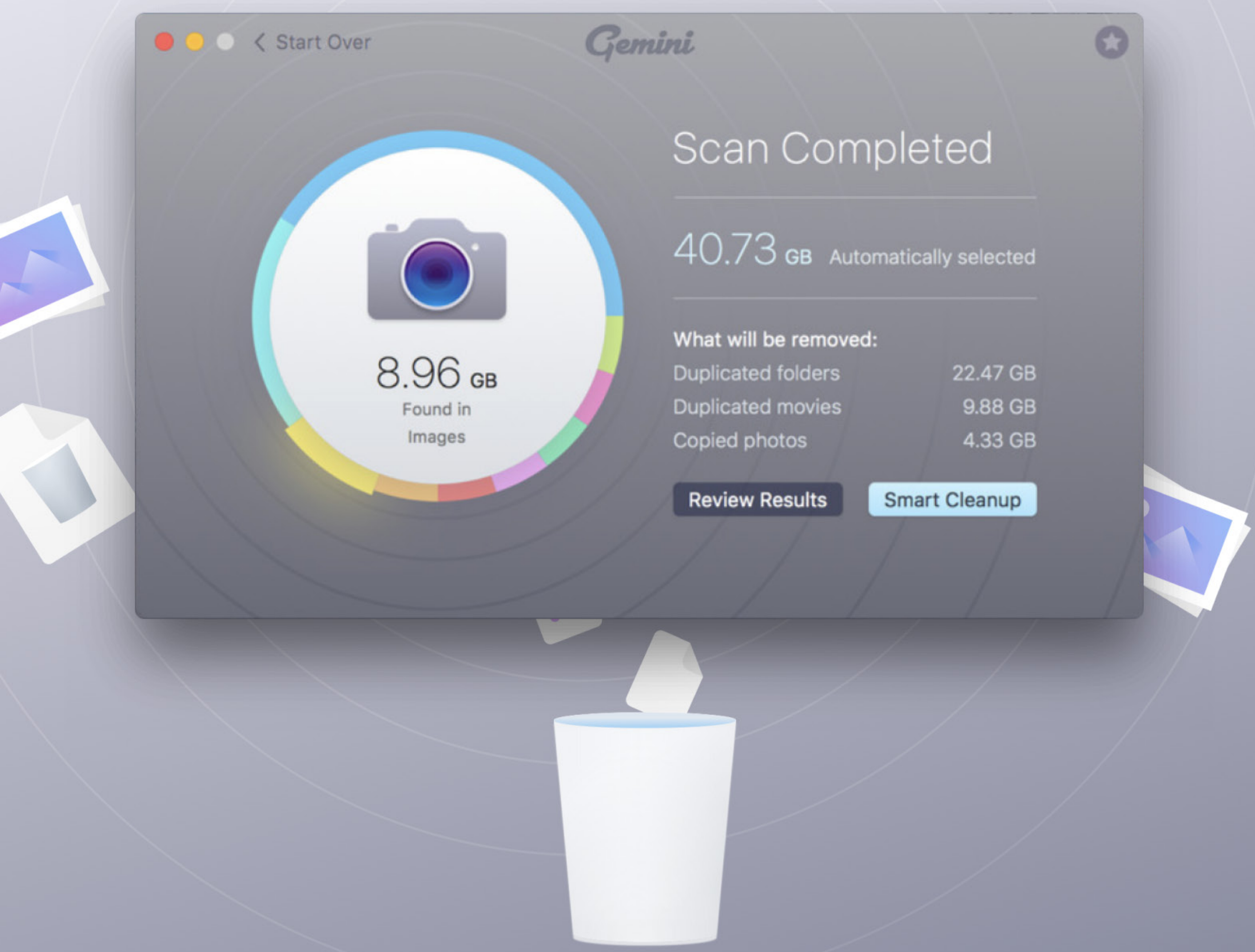
AI cinema in 2025 presents both thrilling opportunities and significant threats. It offers faster production, reduced costs, and expanded creative possibilities. At the same time, it raises complex questions about artistic authenticity, job security, and the

NETFLIX

future of the entertainment industry. As the technology matures, the film industry must make critical decisions about how to integrate AI responsibly. Transparent governance, ethical production standards, and a commitment to human-led storytelling will be essential to ensure AI remains a positive force in cinema.



Whether AI cinema becomes a force for creative liberation or a driver of cultural dilution will depend on choices made today. The world is watching closely, as 2025 may be remembered as the year cinema changed forever.



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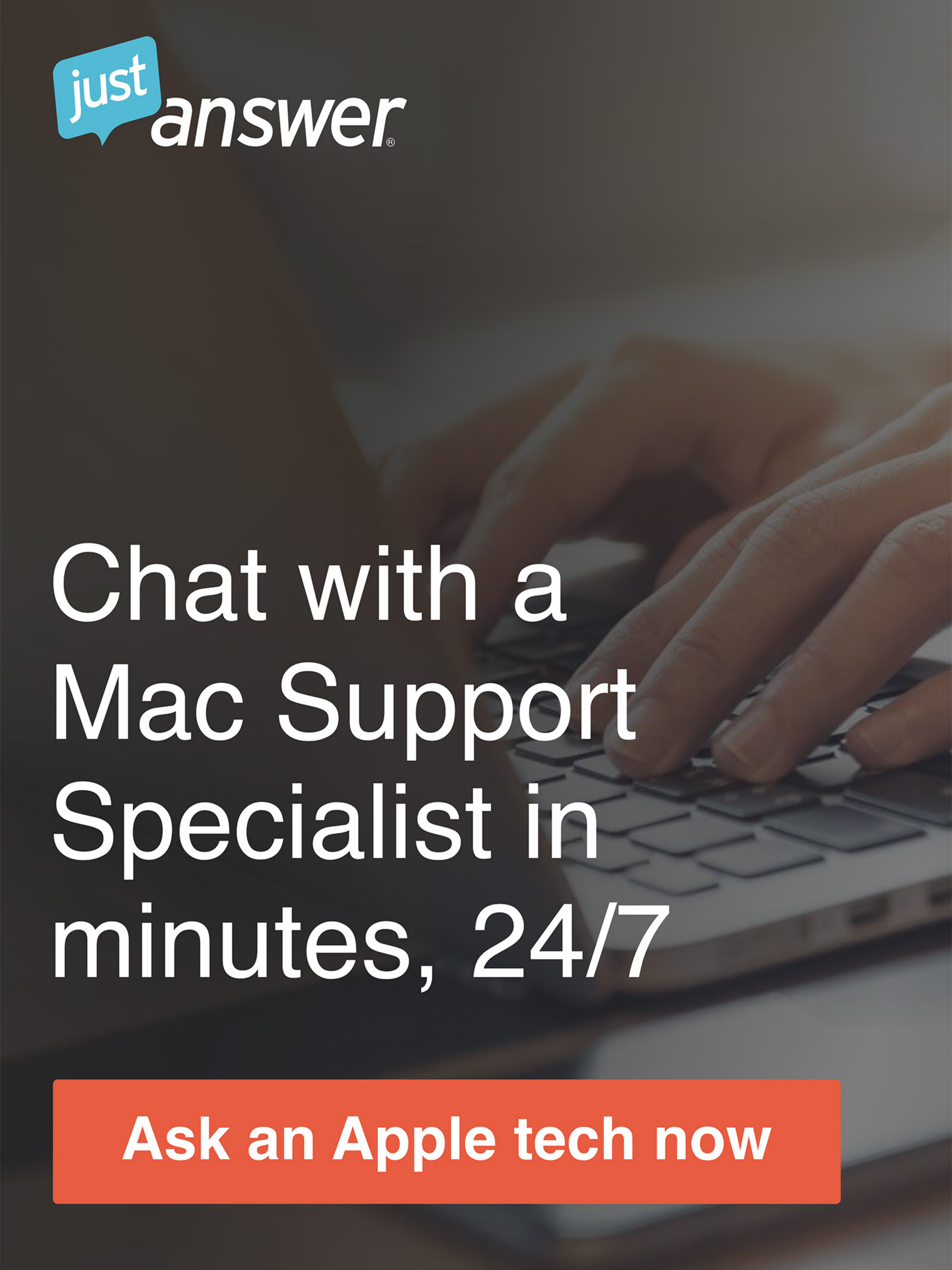

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APPLE, NVIDIA PARTNER ARM HOLDINGS SETS UP AFTER 217% SURGE

After an explosive 217% rally in its stock price since its IPO, Arm Holdings—the U.K.-based semiconductor design firm backed by major tech players including Apple and Nvidia—is stabilizing as markets reassess its valuation and long-term growth potential. The sharp rise, driven largely by AI enthusiasm and high expectations for mobile and data center chip designs, has pushed Arm into the spotlight as one of the most valuable companies in the global chip ecosystem.

Now, as investor attention turns from hype to fundamentals, Arm appears to be entering a more sustainable phase, positioning itself as a foundational player in the semiconductor architecture race amid the global shift toward energy-efficient, AI-optimized computing.

A STELLAR POST-IPO RUN

Arm returned to the public markets in September 2023 with a blockbuster IPO, initially priced at $51 per share. Since then, its stock has soared more than 200%, briefly pushing its market capitalization past $200 billion and making it one of the top-performing tech listings in recent years.

The surge was fueled by mounting demand for chips designed to power artificial intelligence, edge computing, and mobile devices—all markets where Arm's low-power, high-efficiency architecture dominates. With clients including Apple, Nvidia, Qualcomm, Amazon, and Samsung, Arm licenses processor designs that form the blueprint for billions of chips manufactured annually.

nVIDIA

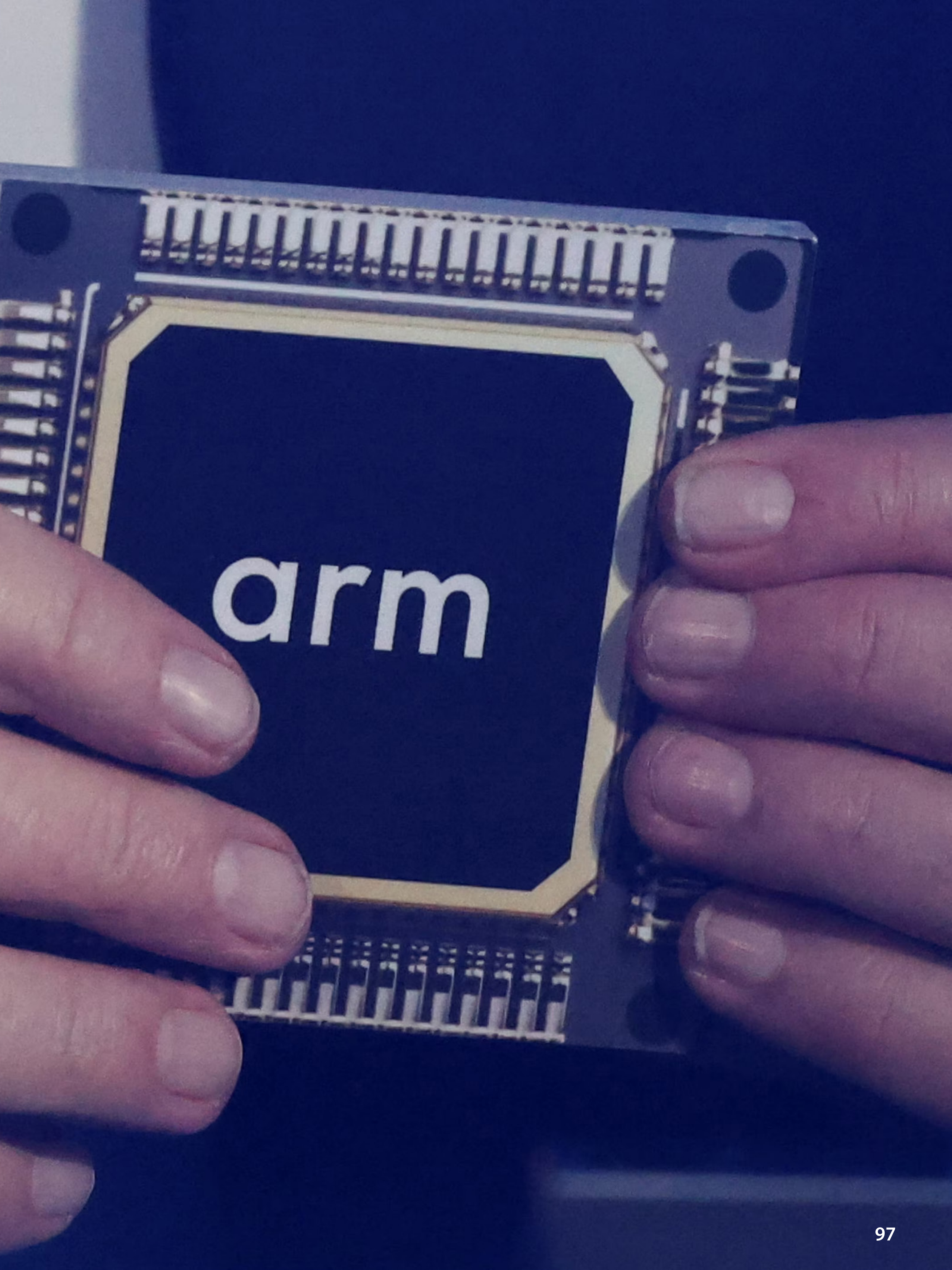
Its role in enabling AI processing on smartphones, wearables, autonomous vehicles, and cloud servers has become increasingly critical, especially as chipmakers look to develop smaller, faster, and more energy-efficient processors. That dynamic helped drive a surge in investor confidence—though analysts have warned that such rapid gains are rarely sustainable without corresponding revenue growth.

APPLE, NVIDIA, AND ARM'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Arm's deep integration with Apple and Nvidia is one of its greatest strengths. Apple uses custom Arm-based silicon in all of its major product lines, from the iPhone and iPad to the MacBook and Vision Pro headset. The M-series and A-series chips, known for their performance and battery efficiency, are all built on Arm's instruction set architecture.

Nvidia, meanwhile, relies on Arm for AI-focused processors and is developing its own Arm-based CPUs for data centers. Despite the collapse of its proposed $40 billion acquisition of Arm in 2022 due to regulatory concerns, Nvidia remains a strategic partner and major customer.

Both companies represent a broader industry pivot toward vertical integration—designing chips in-house to optimize for specific hardware and software performance goals. Arm's ability to provide flexible, license-based IP makes it an indispensable part of that strategy, even as RISC-V and other open-source architectures emerge as potential alternatives.


arm

THE POST-RALLY RESET

Following its meteoric rise, Arm shares have now begun to level out. Analysts say the pullback is natural and healthy, as investors begin to scrutinize the company's revenue streams, licensing models, and competitive threats. While AI remains a strong tailwind, Arm's financials still depend heavily on smartphone chip licensing—a segment that has matured and faces slower growth.

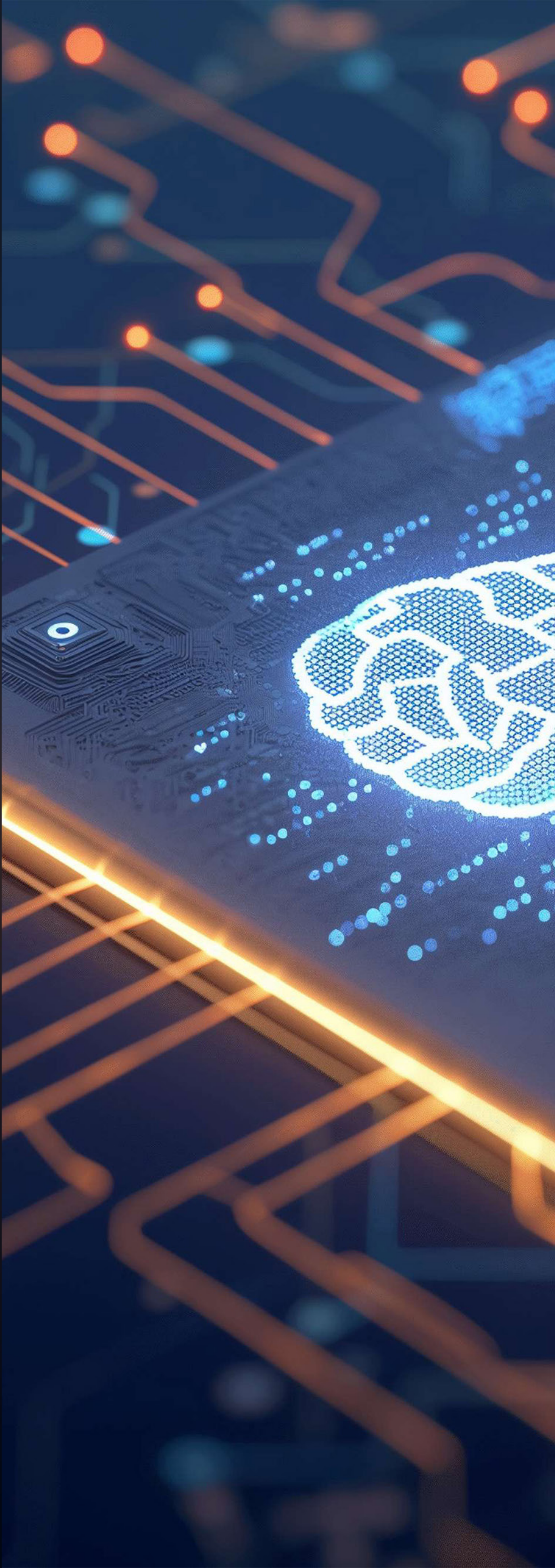
According to its most recent earnings report, Arm's licensing and royalty revenue saw modest growth, while the company emphasized its expanding role in AI inference and data center workloads. CEO Rene Haas noted that Arm is now powering more than 60% of AI-capable edge devices, with efforts underway to grow its footprint in server-class computing.

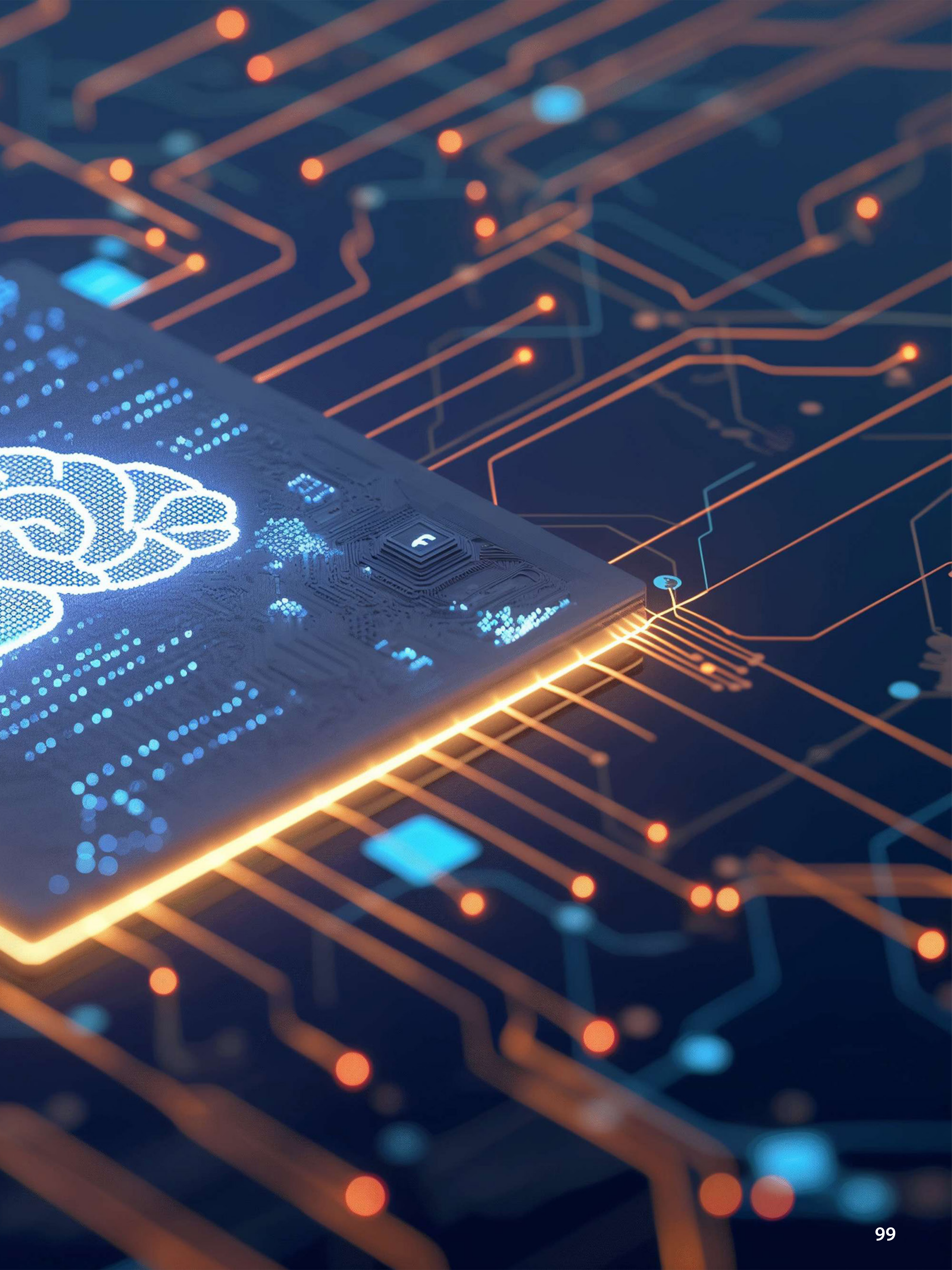
To sustain its valuation, Arm will need to demonstrate that it can convert AI-driven interest into sustained top-line growth—particularly as Nvidia, AMD, Intel, and new AI hardware startups compete for dominance in the data center and enterprise markets.

OUTLOOK: SLOWER CLIMB, DEEPER ROOTS

Even if Arm's stock cools from its triple-digit rally, the company remains strategically positioned at the center of the AI hardware boom. Its licensing model provides a predictable, high-margin business that scales with the adoption of its architecture across sectors.

Industry analysts expect Arm to gain more ground in automotive chips, wearables, and smart home devices—all of which will require





energy-efficient processors capable of on-device AI processing. In addition, major tech firms are continuing to bet on Arm-based designs for future silicon, ensuring long-term demand for its IP.

The stabilization of Arm's stock signals a shift from speculative momentum to measured optimism. Investors are now watching for continued execution, revenue diversification, and design wins in high-performance computing segments.

While the 217% surge may not be repeated in the short term, Arm's role in shaping the next generation of devices—from iPhones to AI-powered data centers—appears more entrenched than ever.

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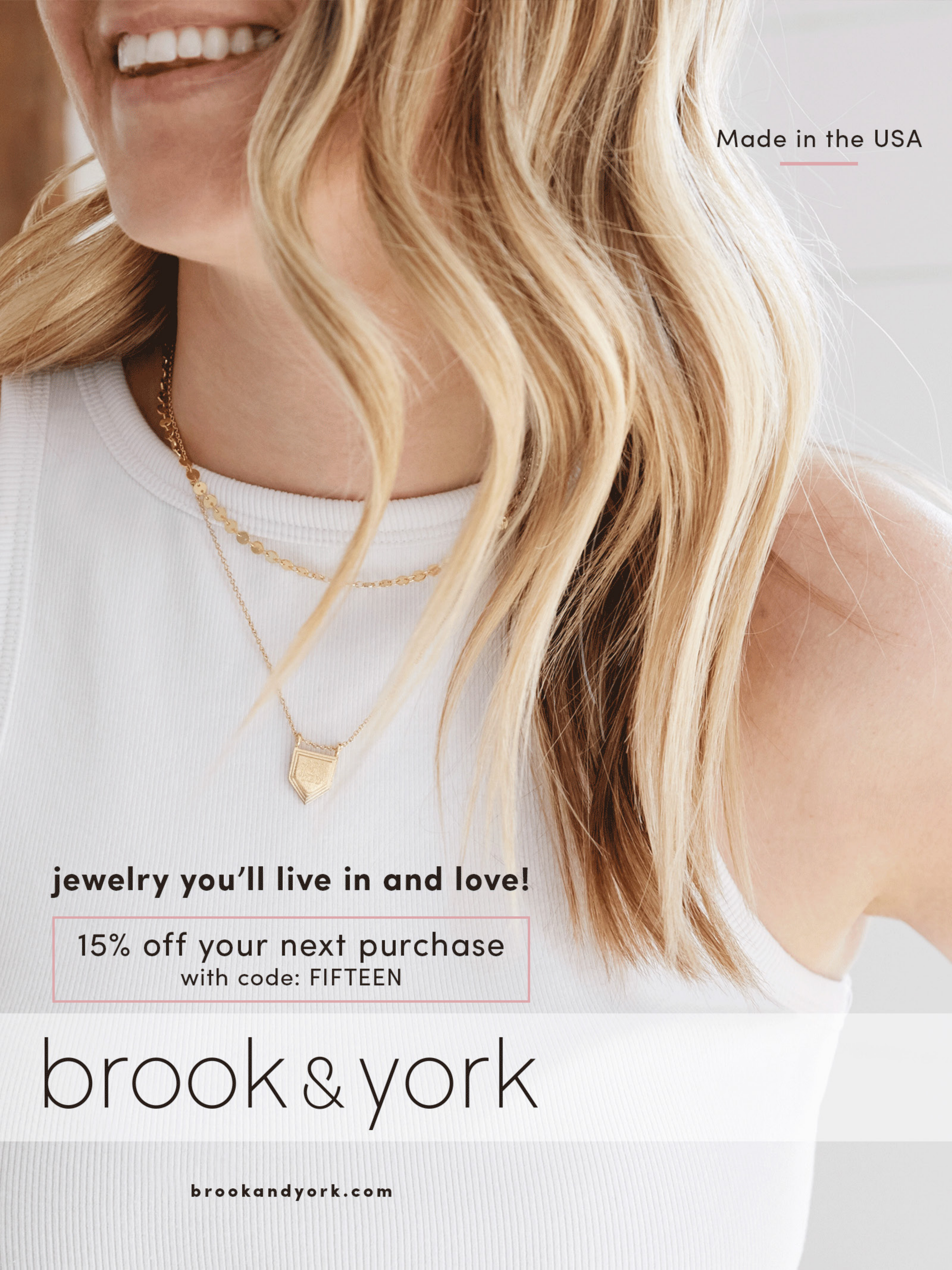
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APPLE STRENGTHENS GULF PRESENCE WITH SAUDI ONLINE STORE

Apple is expanding its footprint in the Middle East with the launch of a dedicated Apple Online Store in Saudi Arabia, a strategic move that reinforces the tech giant's growing focus on the Gulf region. The new store, which offers the full range of Apple products and services in Arabic and English, represents a major step toward deeper regional engagement, local customer support, and direct access to the Saudi consumer base.

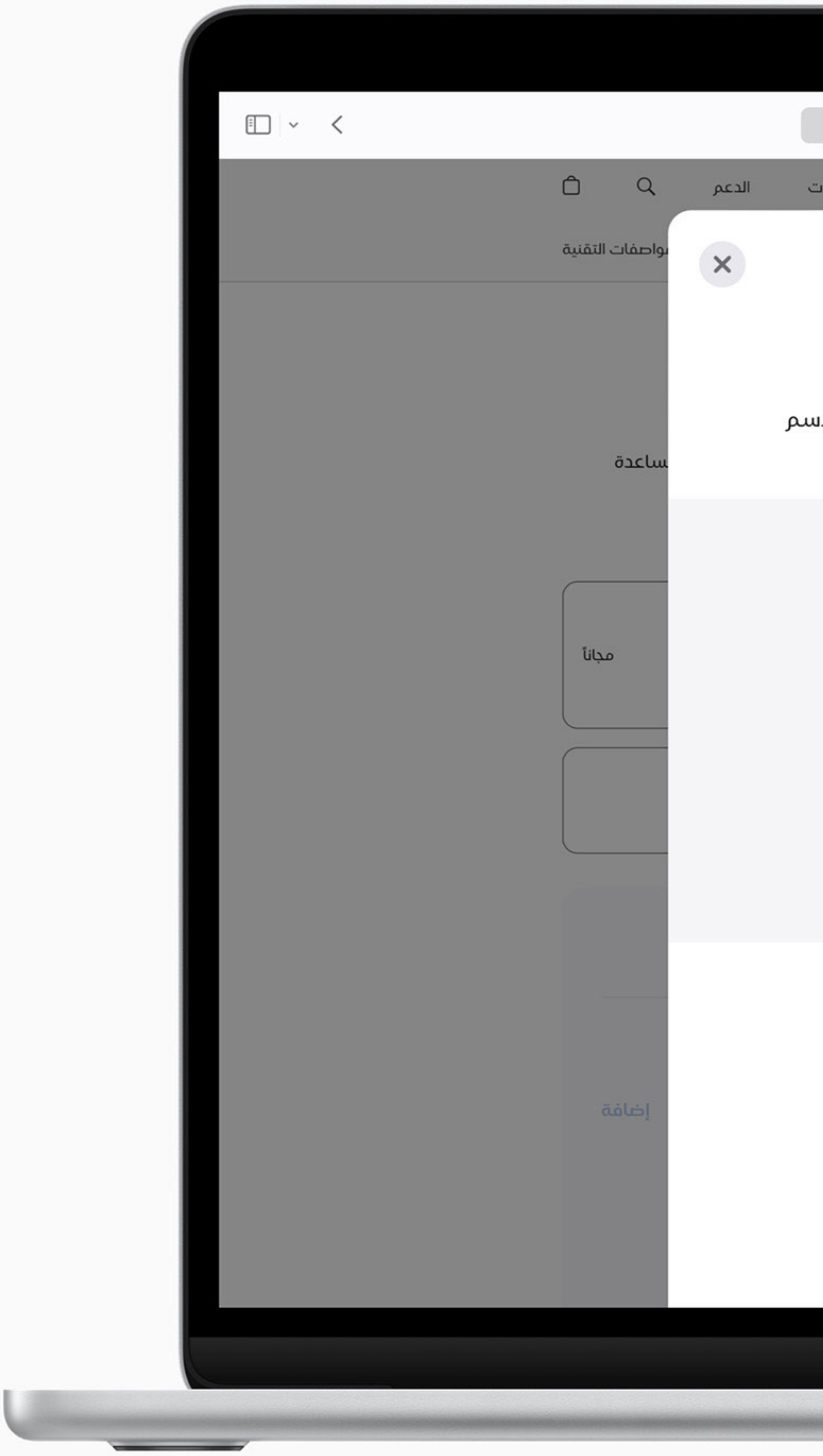
The launch gives Saudi customers the ability to purchase directly from Apple with localized

1248

pricing, payment options, and access to exclusive online services—including product customization, trade-in programs, and AppleCare+. It also reflects Apple's broader ambitions in one of the fastest-growing tech and digital markets in the Middle East.

A STRATEGIC MOVE IN A FAST-GROWING MARKET

Saudi Arabia has emerged as a priority market for global technology companies, thanks to its rapidly digitizing economy, high smartphone penetration, and youthful population. With Vision 2030 driving nationwide investment in digital infrastructure and innovation, demand for premium electronics and mobile services continues to climb.

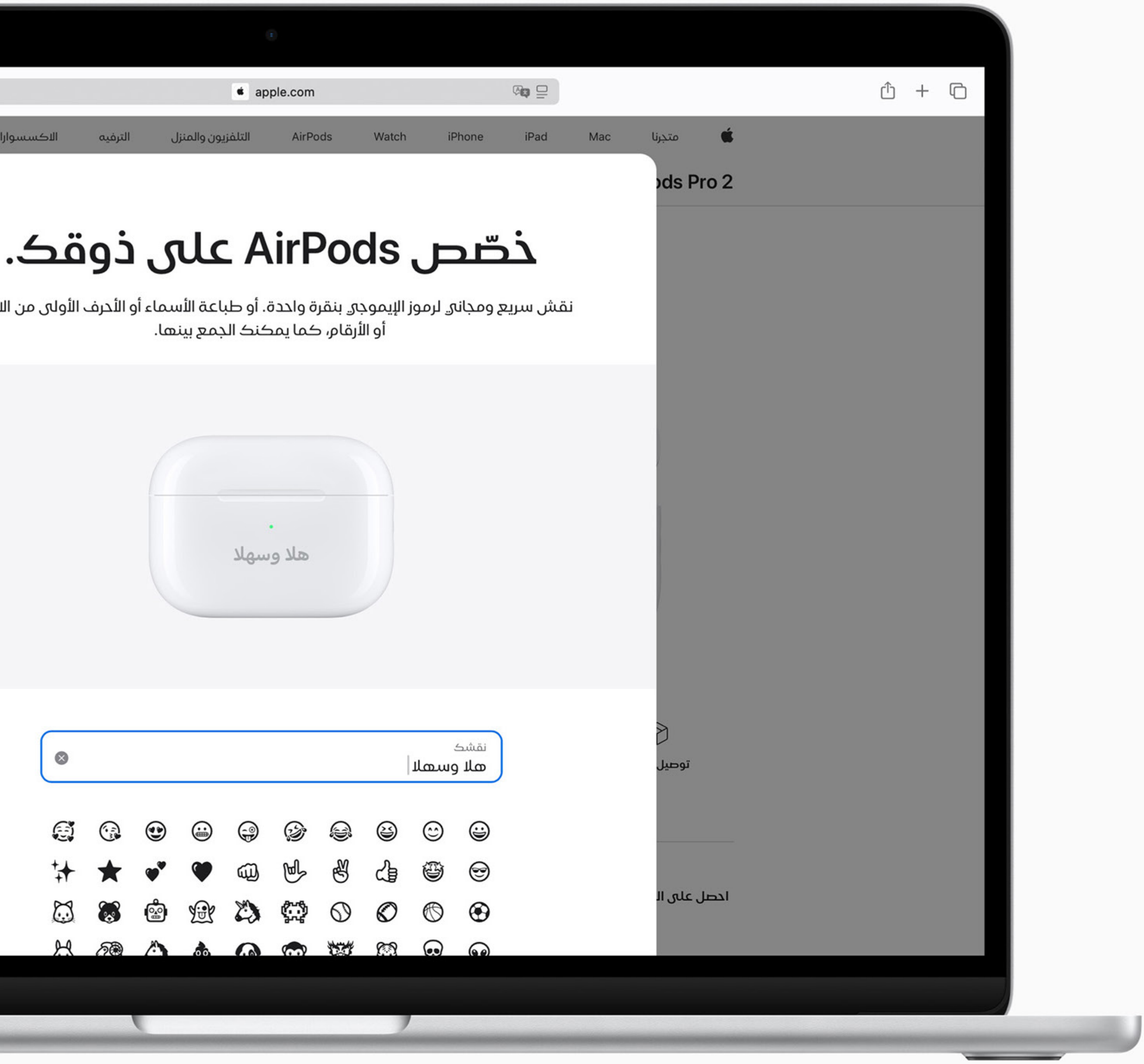


Apple has long maintained a strong retail presence in the region through authorized resellers and premium retail partners. But until now, Saudi customers lacked direct access to Apple's online ecosystem—unlike users in the UAE or other developed markets. The new store bridges that gap, offering not only products but also the full digital retail experience Apple is known for globally.

Industry analysts view the launch as a significant shift toward localized engagement, allowing Apple to offer faster delivery, stronger after-sales support, and more control over its brand narrative in the region.

ENHANCING CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND LOYALTY

The Saudi online store is designed to provide the same seamless experience Apple users expect in global markets. Shoppers can now personalize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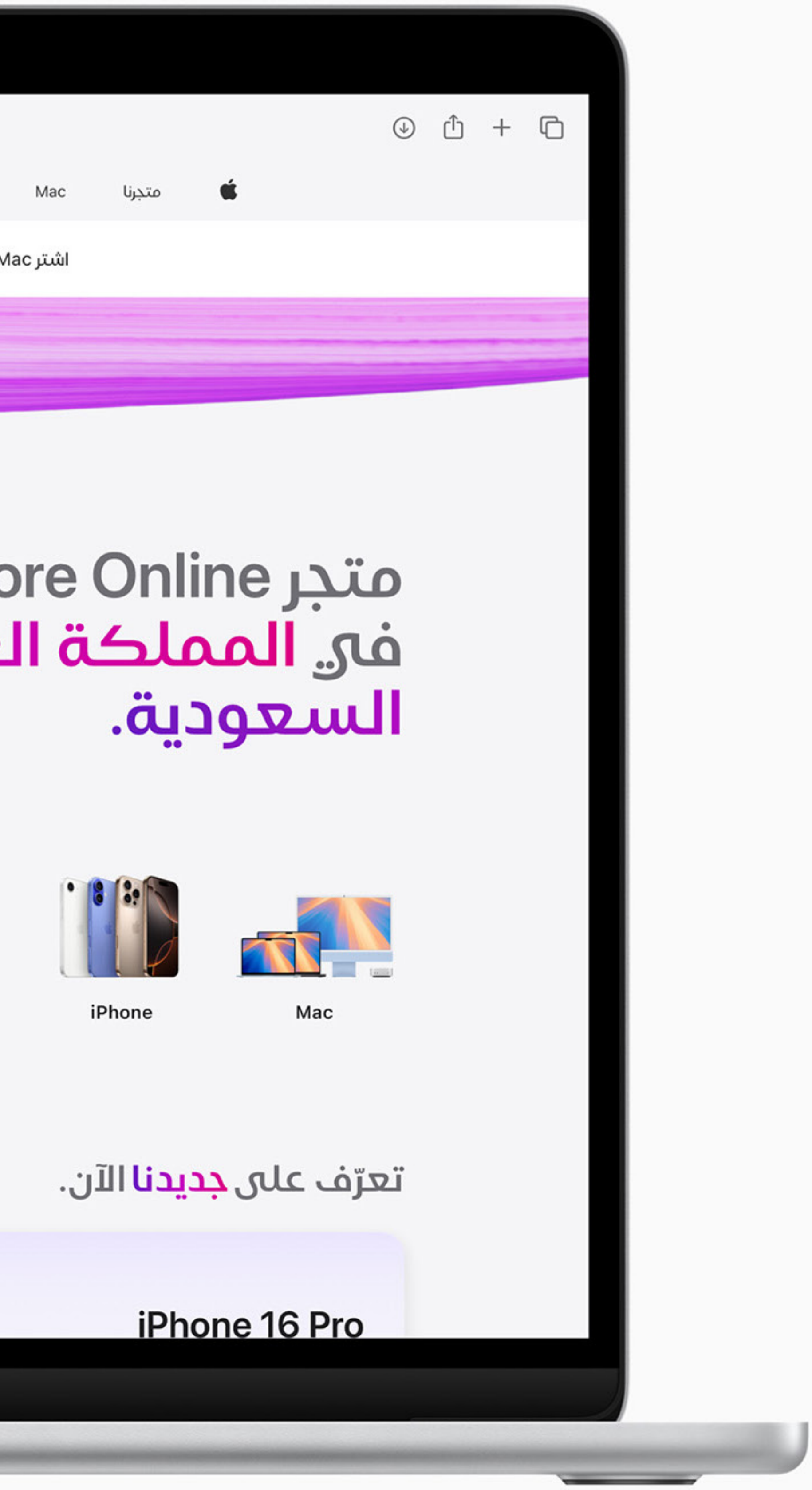
products, explore build-to-order Mac configurations, and take advantage of same-day or next-day delivery in major cities like Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam.

The platform also enables customers to access Apple's Trade-In program, allowing users to exchange eligible devices for credit toward new purchases. Support for financing options through local banks and integration with regional digital wallets further align the service with Saudi consumer preferences.

Importantly, the online store creates a direct channel for Apple to introduce its services ecosystem to Saudi customers, including iCloud+, Apple Music, and Apple TV+, as well as promotions tied to major product launches and seasonal campaigns.



A SIGNAL TO THE REGION

Apple's Saudi store launch is not only a commercial decision but a symbolic gesture of long-term commitment to the Gulf. It signals an intent to invest more deeply in the region's economic transformation and to play a visible role in the country's digital modernization.

With tech infrastructure projects, smart cities, and digital literacy programs accelerating across the Kingdom, Apple's closer engagement could open doors to future collaborations in education, enterprise, and government services. It also sets the stage for potential physical Apple Store openings in the Saudi market—something long anticipated by local Apple enthusiasts.

COMPETITION HEATS UP IN THE GCC

Apple's move comes amid intensifying competition from other global and regional players. Samsung, Huawei, and Xiaomi continue to target the Gulf with aggressive pricing and regional launches. Meanwhile, e-commerce platforms like Noon and Amazon have increased electronics sales in the Kingdom, raising consumer expectations for delivery speed, product authenticity, and post-sale service.

By launching its own online store, Apple ensures greater control over the customer journey, helps combat counterfeit sales, and offers premium services that differentiate it from third-party sellers. It also allows the company to gather direct insights into user behavior and preferences—valuable data as it prepares future regional expansions.

A NEW DIGITAL GATEWAY FOR SAUDI USERS

The Apple Online Store in Saudi Arabia marks a new chapter in the company's Middle East strategy. With demand for high-end technology continuing to rise, and digital infrastructure expanding rapidly, Apple is now better positioned to serve Saudi consumers—and compete more directly in one of the most dynamic markets in the region.

As Apple continues to expand its digital footprint across the GCC, the Saudi store could serve as a template for localized online engagement in neighboring countries like Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman—further reinforcing its commitment to the Middle East's digital future.

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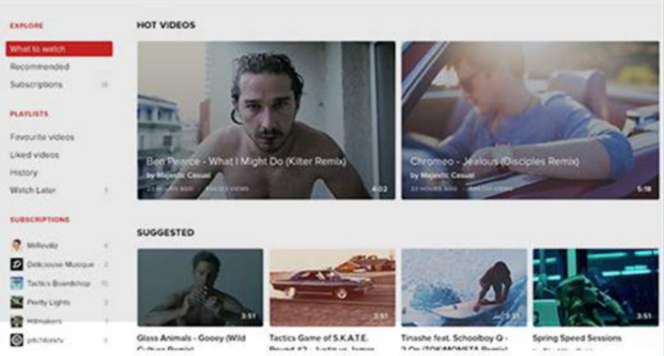

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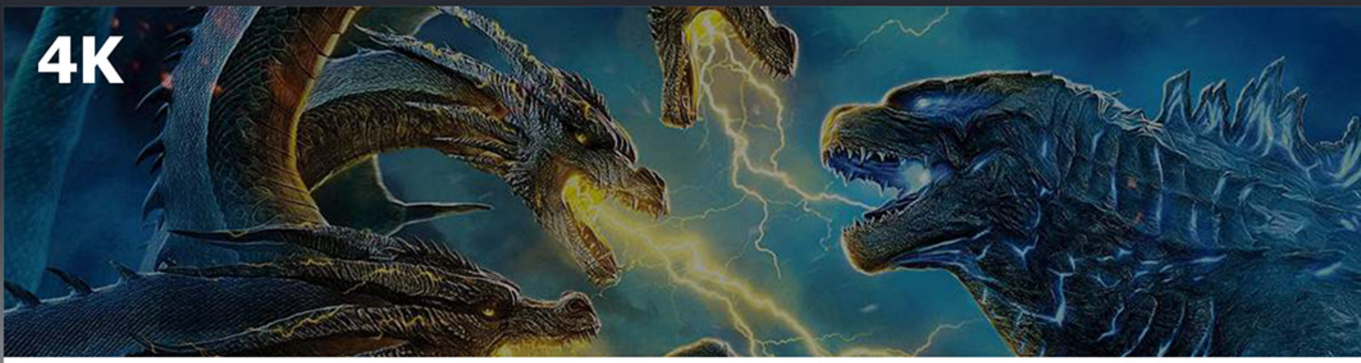

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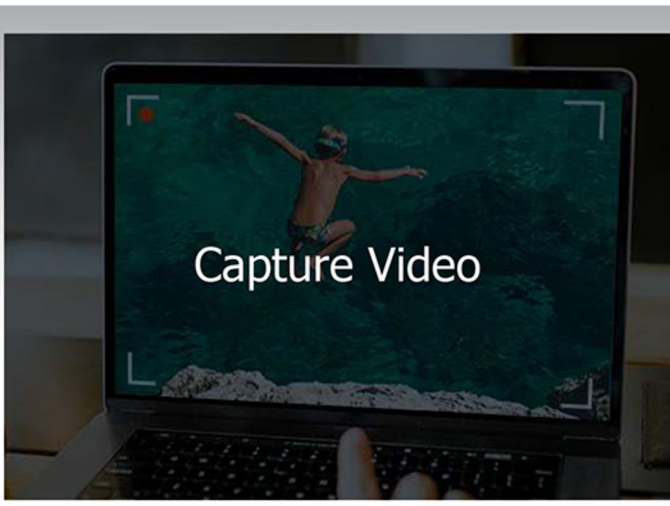

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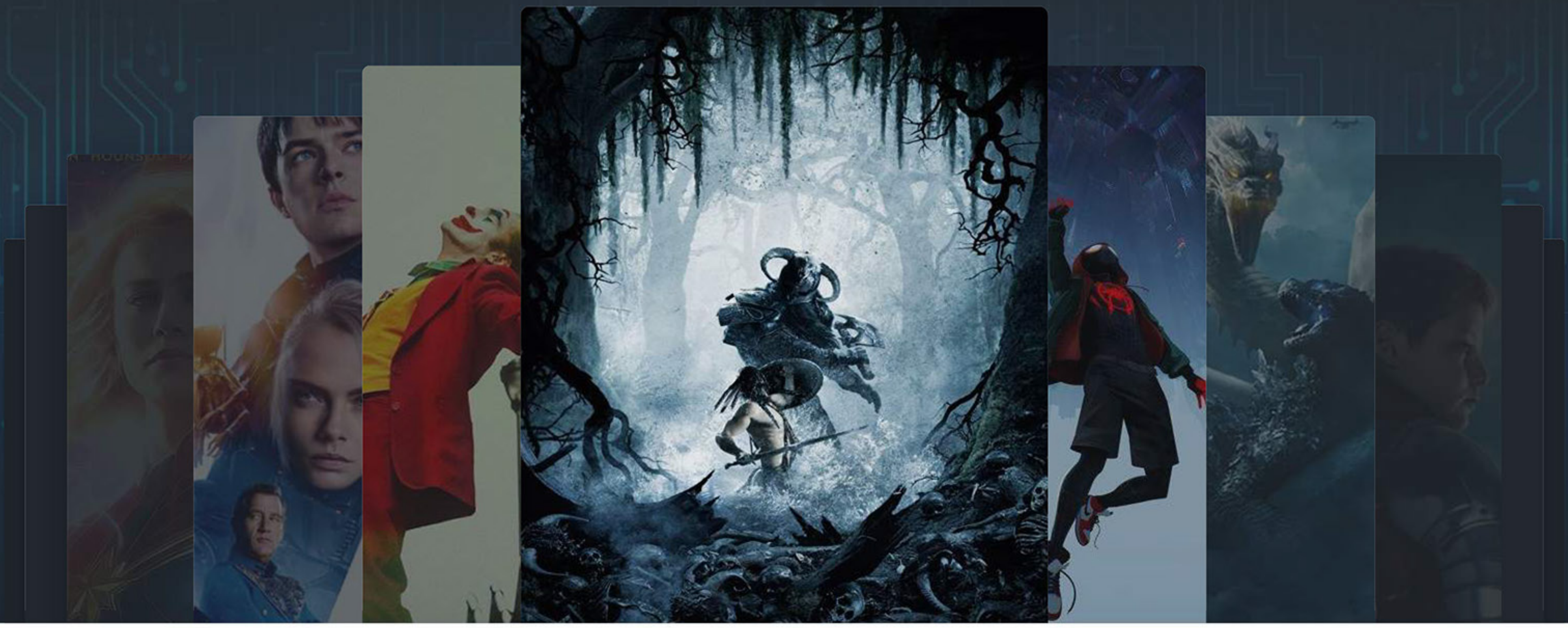

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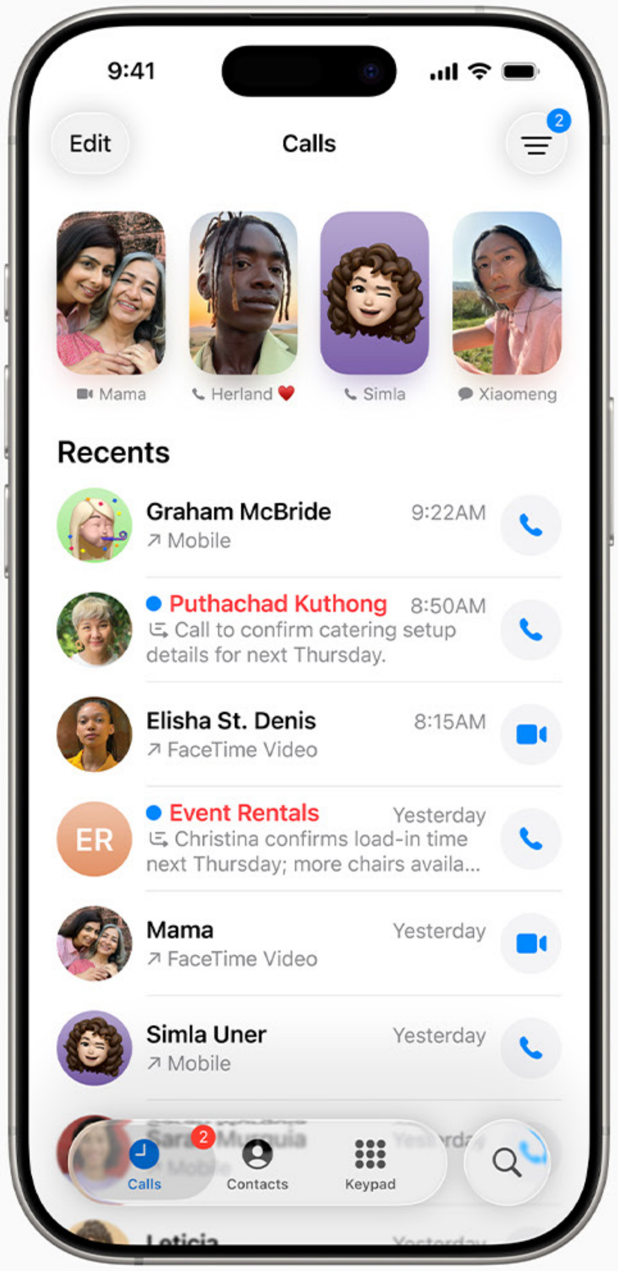
IOS 26 BETA 4 BRINGS SILENCE UNKNOWN CALLERS TO CALL SCREENING

Apple's iOS 26 beta 4 introduces a notable enhancement to its call protection features by integrating Silence Unknown Callers directly into the Call Screening system. This update, currently available to developers and public beta testers, builds on Apple's ongoing efforts to reduce spam, robocalls, and unwanted interruptions on iPhone.

The feature update allows users not only to silence unknown numbers automatically but also to screen them in real time using Apple Intelligence, enabling smarter handling of calls from numbers not in the user's contacts.



Graham McBride 9:22AM
↗ Mobile

Puthachad Kuthong 8:50AM
Call to confirm catering setup details for next Thursday.

Elisha St. Denis 8:15AM
↗ FaceTime Video

Event Rentals Yesterday
Christina confirms load-in time next Thursday; more chairs availa...

Mama Yesterday
↗ FaceTime Video

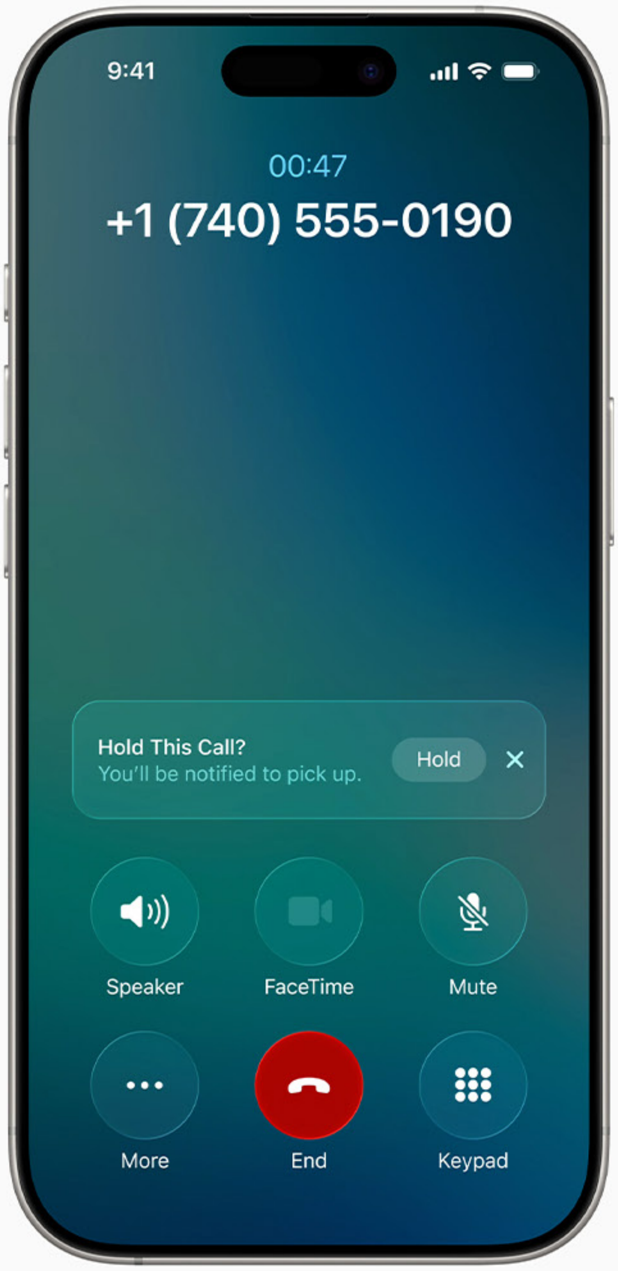
Simla Uner Yesterday
↗ Mobile

AN UPGRADE TO CALL MANAGEMENT

Originally introduced in iOS 13, Silence Unknown Callers sends calls from numbers not found in the user's contacts, messages, or recent outgoing calls directly to voicemail. With iOS 26 beta 4, this feature has been enhanced and merged with the newer Call Screening function—first rolled out in iOS 26 as part of Apple's AI-powered communication tools.

Now, instead of simply silencing calls, users can enable live AI-based transcription for unknown numbers. When a call comes in, Apple Intelligence can answer on the user's behalf with a neutral greeting and transcribe the caller's message in real time on-screen. This lets the user decide whether to accept the call, ignore it, or follow up later.

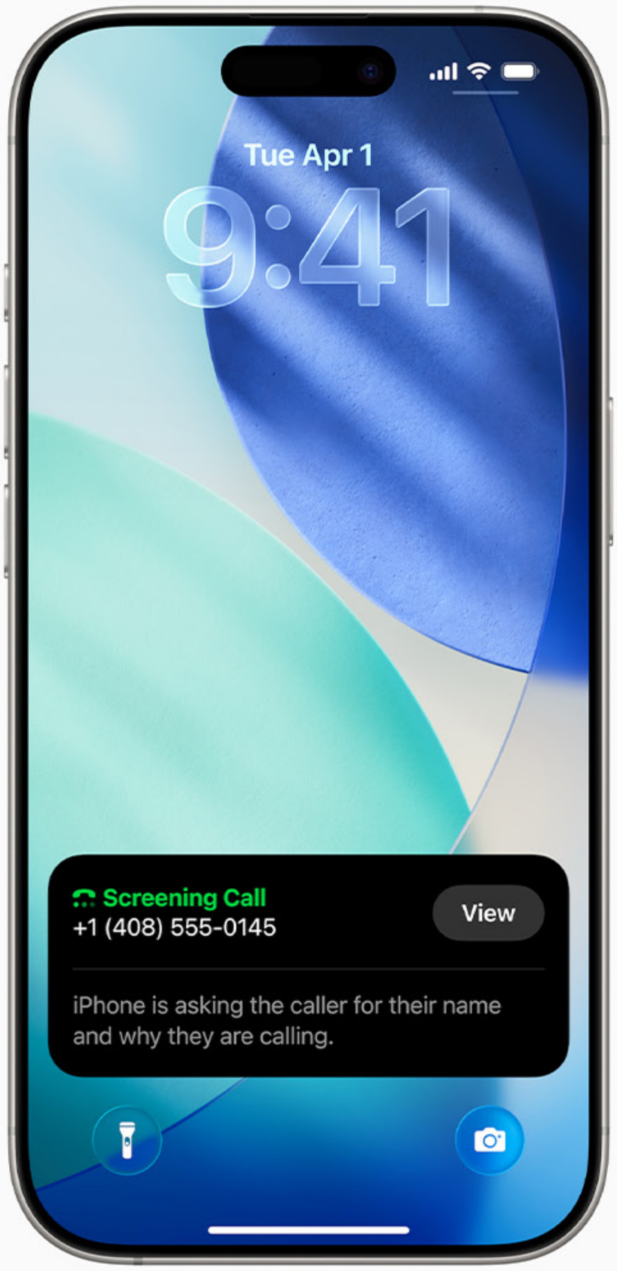
The transcript is processed securely using on-device AI or Private Cloud Compute, depending on the complexity of the interaction. Apple says that no caller audio is stored or shared externally.


9:41
Hold
Speaker
FaceTime
Mute
More
End
Keypad

00:47

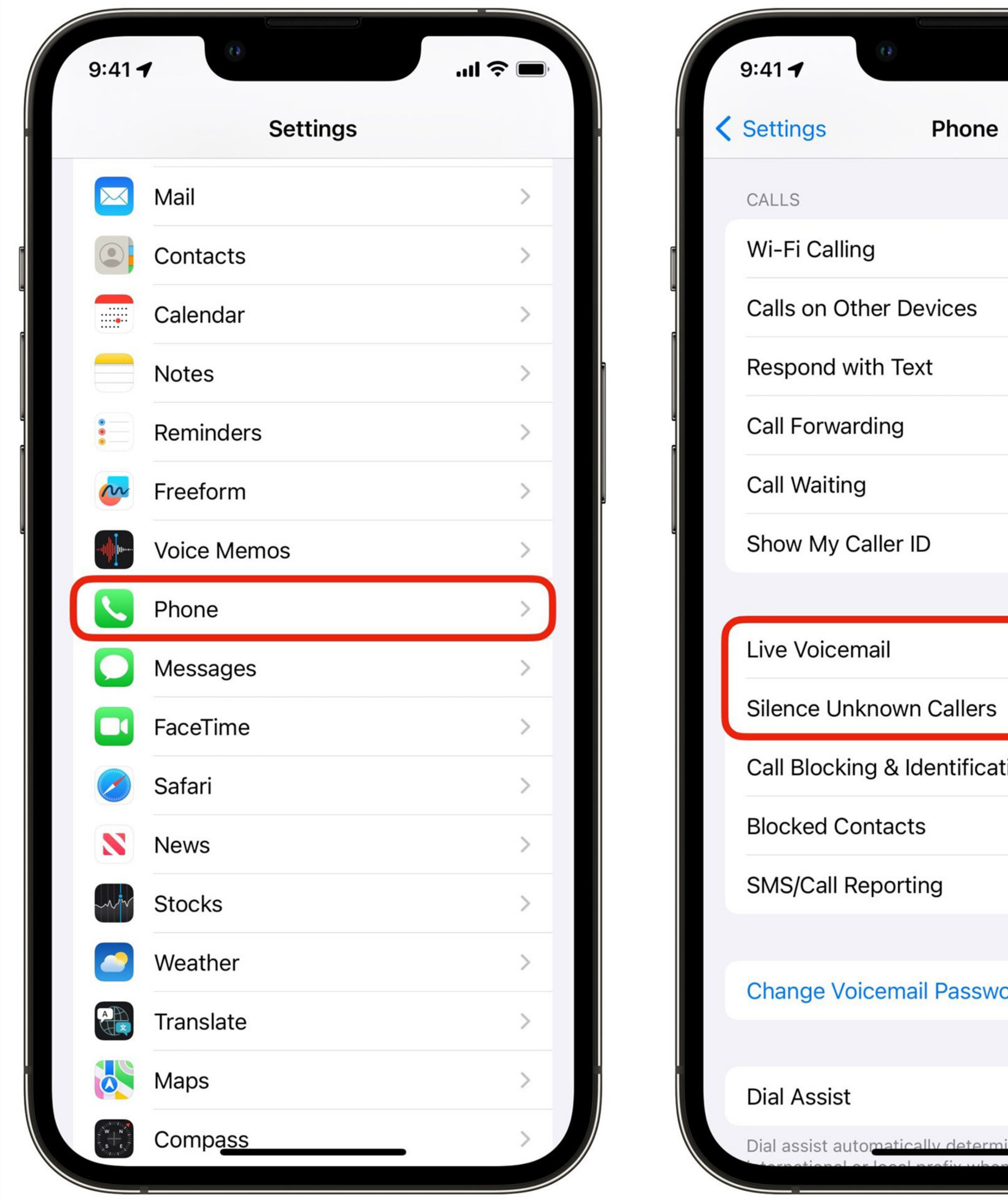
+1 (740) 555-0190

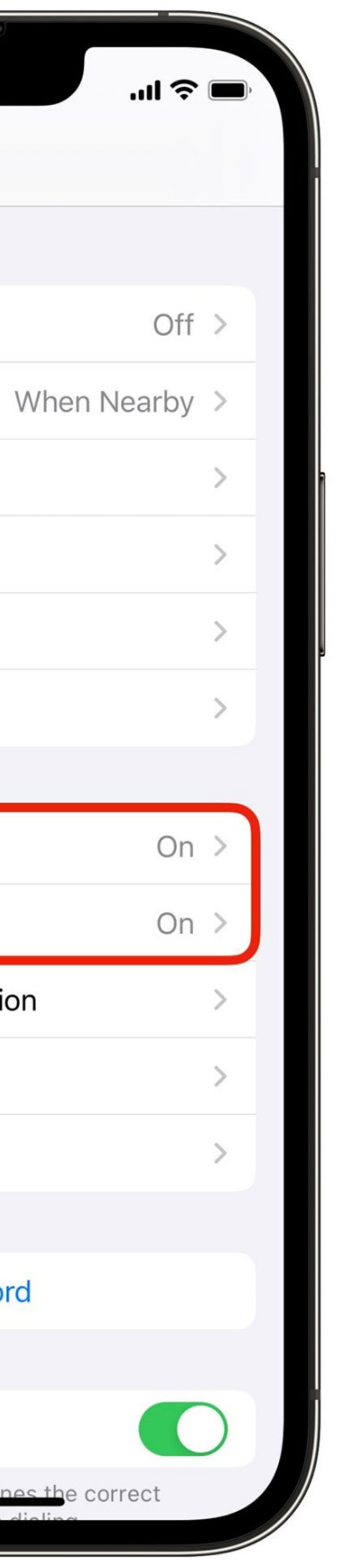
Hold This Call?
You'll be notified to pick up.


Tue Apr 1
9:41
View

Screening Call
+1 (408) 555-0145

iPhone is asking the caller for their name and why they are calling.


9:41
Settings
Mail
Contacts
Calendar
Notes
Reminders
Freeform
Voice Memos
Phone
Messages
FaceTime
Safari
News
Stocks
Weather
Translate
Maps
Compass
9:41
Settings
Phone
CALLS
Wi-Fi Calling
Calls on Other Devices
Respond with Text
Call Forwarding
Call Waiting
Show My Caller ID
Live Voicemail
Silence Unknown Callers
Call Blocking & Identificati
Blocked Contacts
SMS/Call Reporting
Change Voicemail Passwo
Dial Assist
Dial assist automatically determi



HOW IT WORKS

Once enabled in Settings > Phone > Call Screening, users can toggle Silence Unknown Callers with live transcription. When an unknown number calls, the iPhone will display a live transcription of the caller's voice in real time, similar to voicemail-to-text but happening as the person speaks.

The update adds more flexibility and user control, especially for people who receive frequent unknown calls—such as gig workers, small business owners, or individuals screening job-related calls. Unlike basic silence features, this approach allows users to gauge the importance of a call without answering it directly.

PRIVACY AND CUSTOMIZATION

As with other Apple Intelligence features, call screening with live transcription is designed with privacy at its core. Transcription is handled on-device when possible, and when sent to Apple's secure servers, data is processed anonymously and not retained.

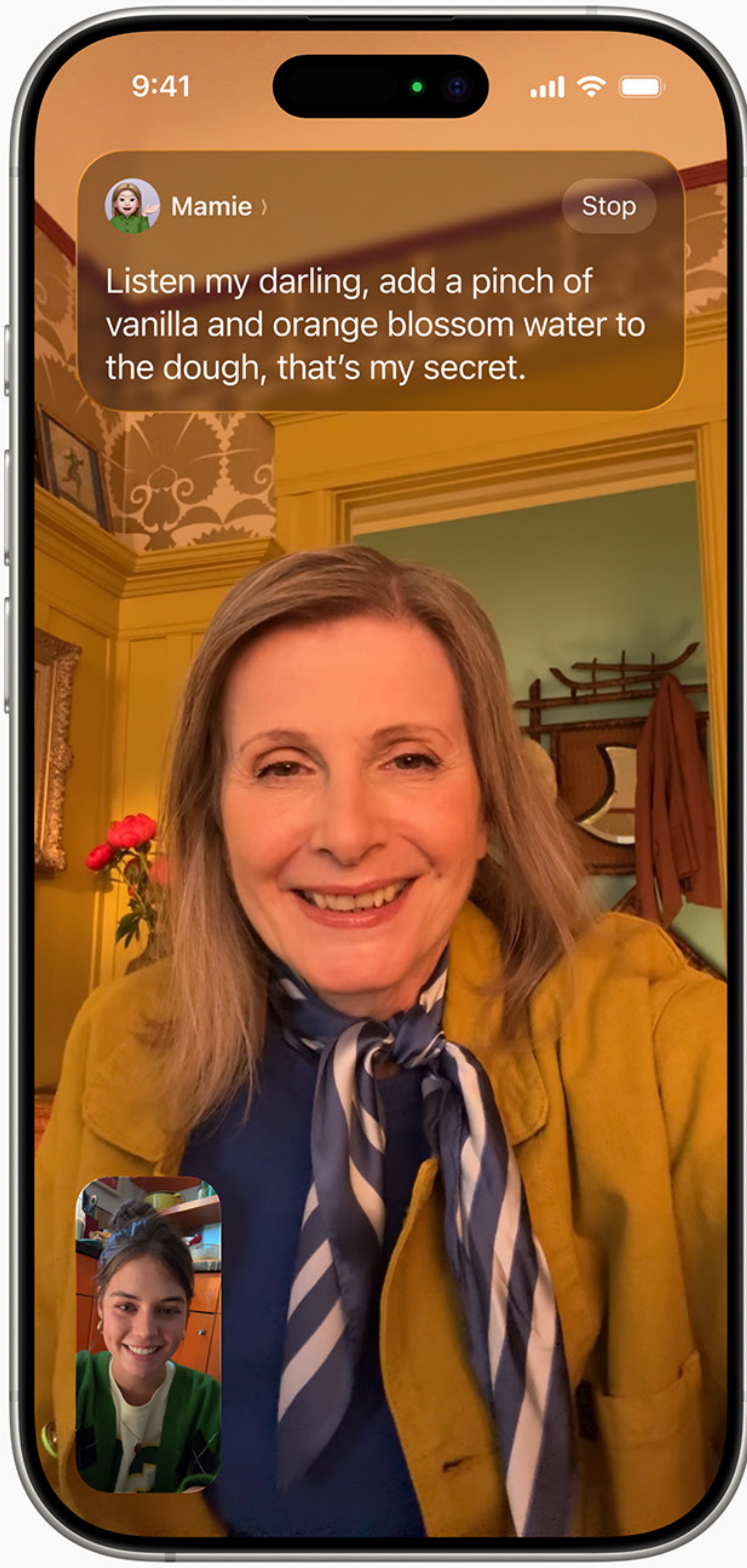
Users can customize the screening behavior, choosing whether to screen all unknown calls or only those not marked as potential spam. In addition, Apple has included options for different screening responses based on time of day or Focus mode, offering deeper integration with iOS's productivity features.

PART OF A BROADER PUSH AGAINST SPAM CALLS

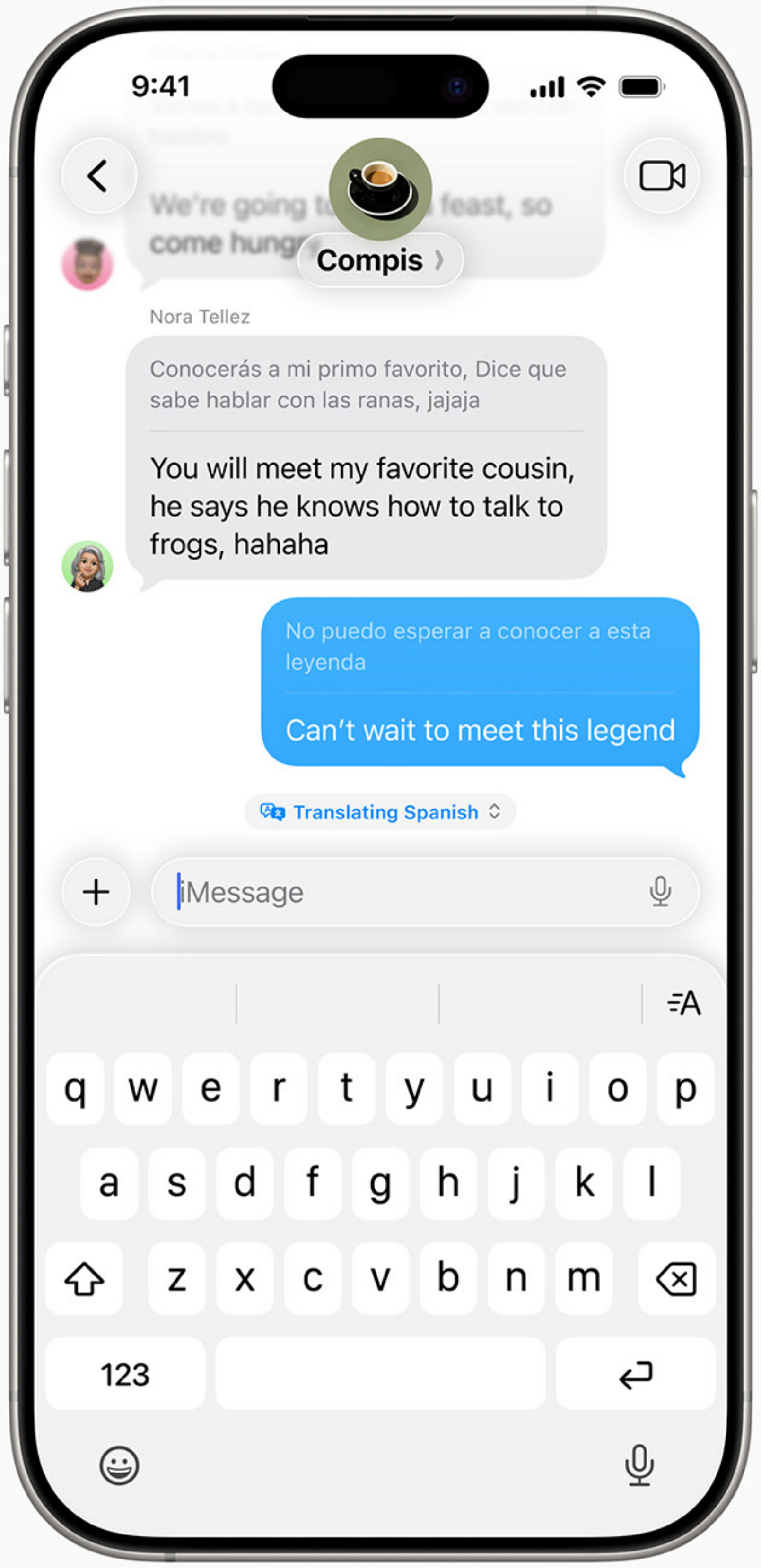
Apple's expanded call protection features reflect a broader industry focus on fighting spam and scam calls, which remain a top complaint among mobile users. By using AI to analyze and transcribe unknown calls in real time, iOS 26 makes it easier to detect fraud, avoid interruptions, and reclaim control over incoming communication.

While similar features exist on Android via Google's Call Screen, Apple's integration with its new AI system allows for tighter privacy safeguards and system-wide support that spans across the iPhone ecosystem.

As iOS 26 continues to evolve through its beta stages, features like enhanced call screening demonstrate how Apple is using artificial intelligence to improve practical, everyday experiences without sacrificing user privacy.



Listen my darling, add a pinch of vanilla and orange blossom water to the dough, that's my secret.


9:41
Compis
Translating Spanish
iMessage

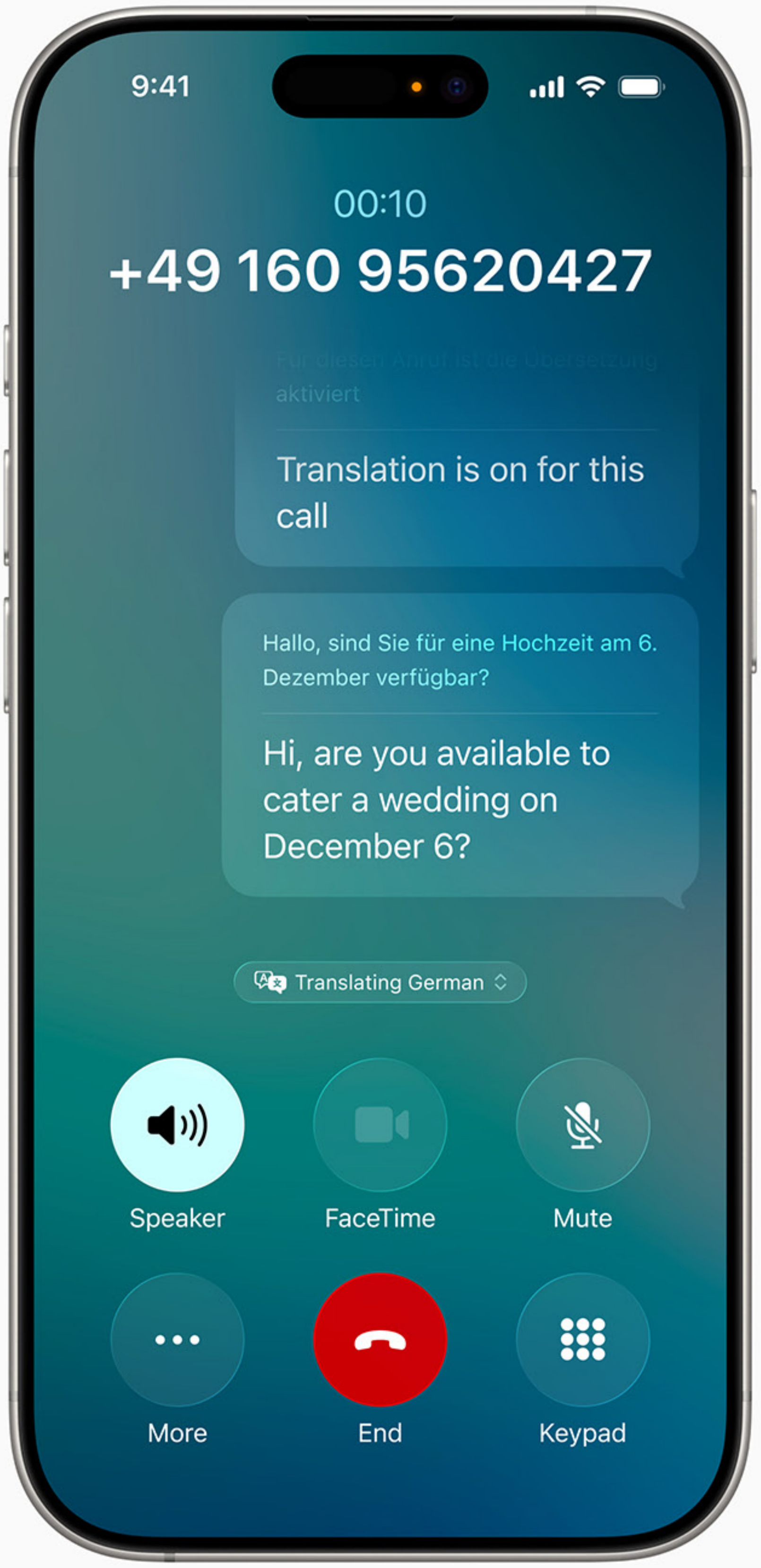
Nora Tellez

Conocerás a mi primo favorito, Dice que sabe hablar con las ranas, jajaja

You will meet my favorite cousin, he says he knows how to talk to frogs, hahaha

No puedo esperar a conocer a esta leyenda

Can't wait to meet this legend


9:41
00:10
Translating German
Speaker
FaceTime
Mute
More
End
Keypad

+49 160 95620427

Für diesen Anruf ist die Übersetzung aktiviert

Translation is on for this call

Hallo, sind Sie für eine Hochzeit am 6. Dezember verfügbar?

Hi, are you available to cater a wedding on December 6?

APPLE DETAILS HOW IT TRAINED ITS NEW AI MODELS

Apple has released new information about how it trained its suite of artificial intelligence models powering features in iOS 18, macOS Sequoia, and other platforms as part of its Apple Intelligence initiative. The company's latest technical breakdown reveals its approach to model architecture, data handling, privacy safeguards, and system integration—offering a rare glimpse into Apple's behind-the-scenes AI strategy.

Unlike some rivals, Apple is positioning its models to run efficiently on-device and in the cloud, focusing on personal context, privacy, and task-specific performance rather than purely chasing scale.

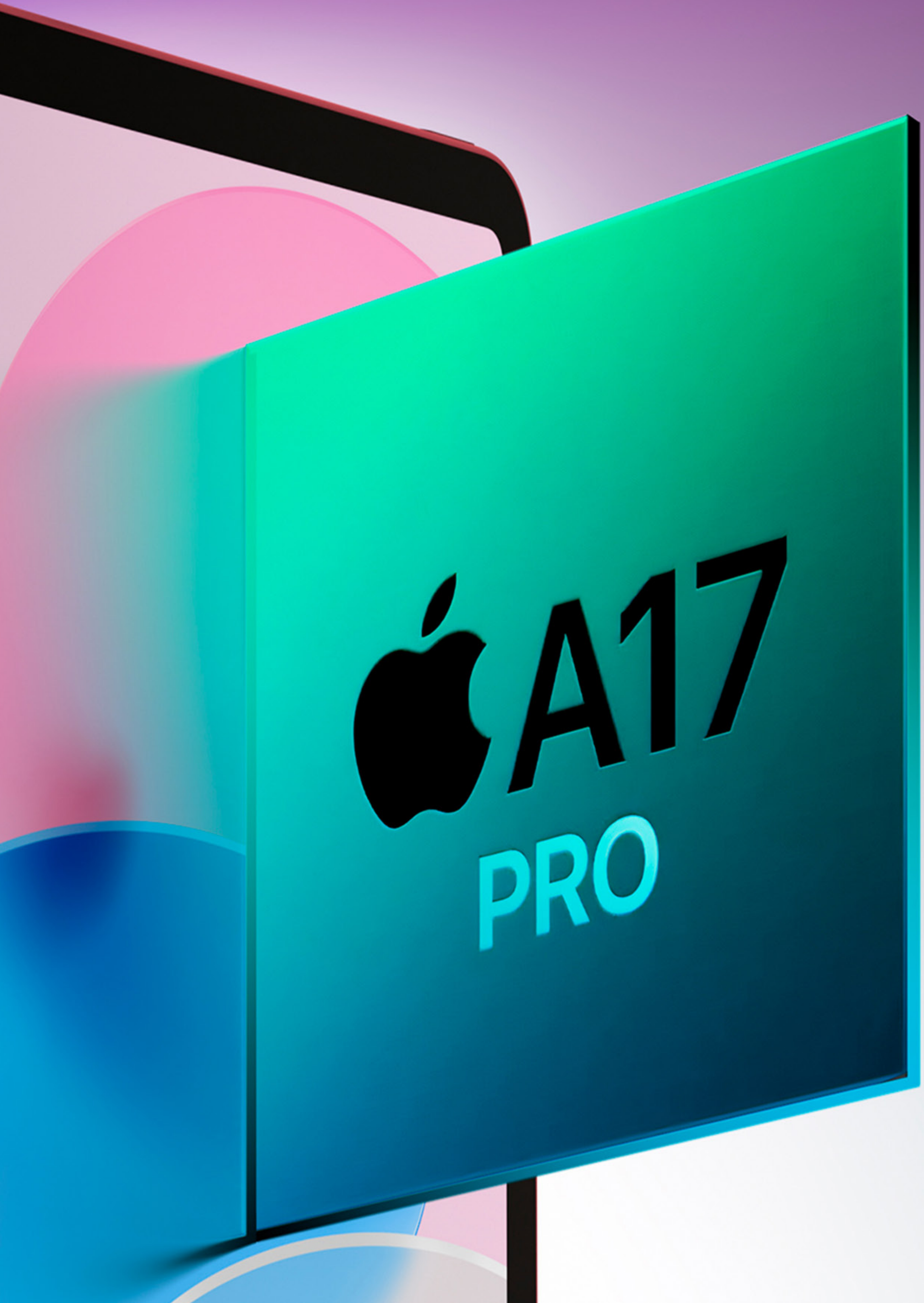
Here are the key highlights from Apple's official documentation and research publications on how it built and trained its new AI models.

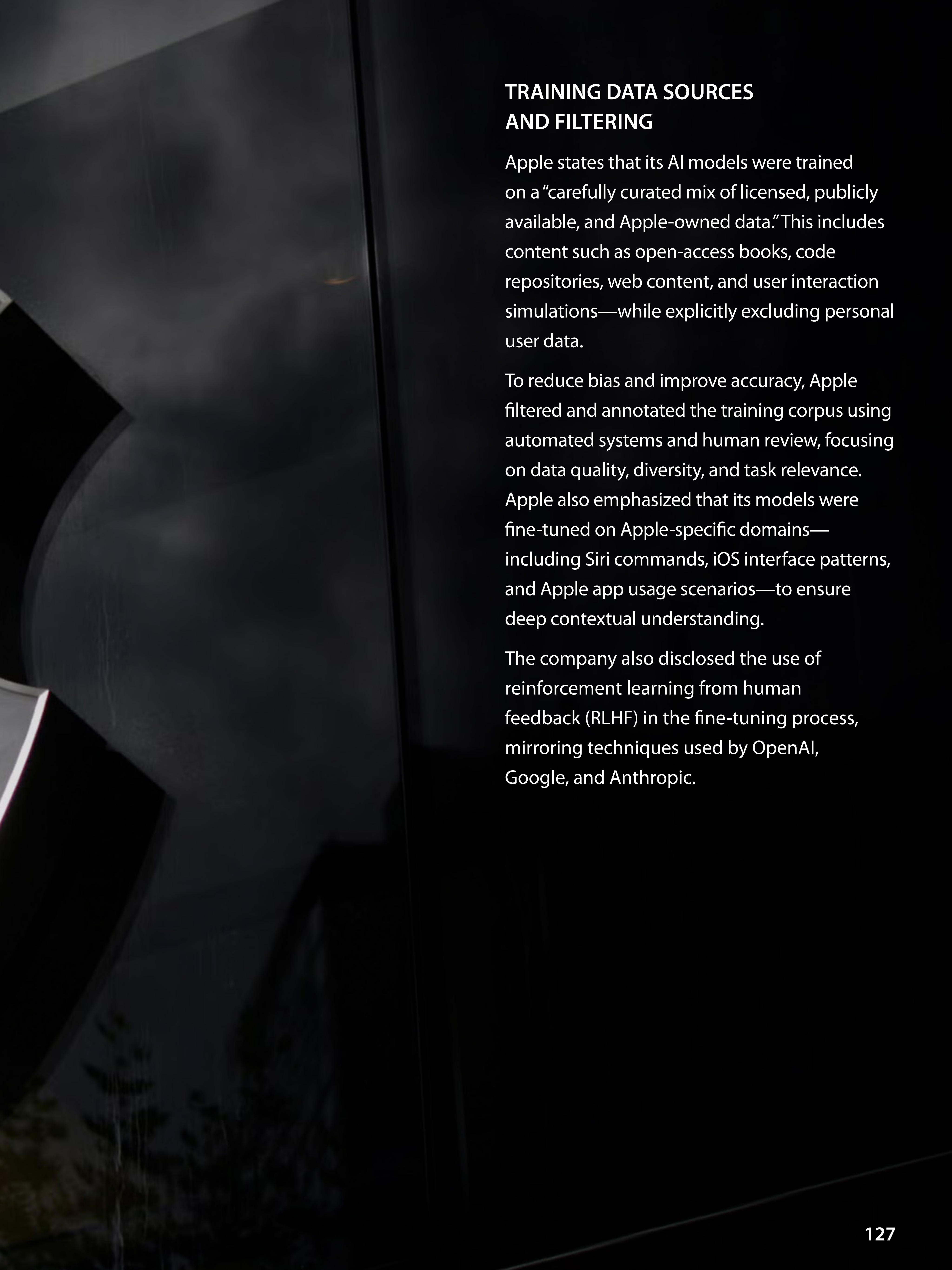
HYBRID MODEL STRATEGY: ON-DEVICE AND SERVER-BASED AI

Apple's AI system is built around a hybrid model framework, combining small, fast on-device models with larger, server-hosted foundation models. The goal is to deliver responsive, privacy-preserving performance for everyday tasks—like message summarization or photo editing—while offloading more complex requests to secure Apple servers.

For example, a smaller 3-billion-parameter model is used on iPhones and iPads with A17 Pro or M-series chips. These models are optimized to handle queries like setting reminders, rewriting text, or finding context-aware app actions without needing to connect to the internet.

For heavier tasks—such as document summarization, email drafting, or multi-step reasoning—Apple uses larger models that run in Private Cloud Compute, its new server infrastructure designed for secure, ephemeral AI processing.


A17
PRO



TRAINING DATA SOURCES AND FILTERING

Apple states that its AI models were trained on a "carefully curated mix of licensed, publicly available, and Apple-owned data." This includes content such as open-access books, code repositories, web content, and user interaction simulations—while explicitly excluding personal user data.

To reduce bias and improve accuracy, Apple filtered and annotated the training corpus using automated systems and human review, focusing on data quality, diversity, and task relevance. Apple also emphasized that its models were fine-tuned on Apple-specific domains—including Siri commands, iOS interface patterns, and Apple app usage scenarios—to ensure deep contextual understanding.

The company also disclosed the use of reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF) in the fine-tuning process, mirroring techniques used by OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic.

PRIVACY-FIRST MODEL DEPLOYMENT

Privacy remains central to Apple's AI design. The company has built its models to process personal information only on-device by default. When tasks require more computational power, data is routed to Private Cloud Compute—but never stored or linked to Apple IDs.

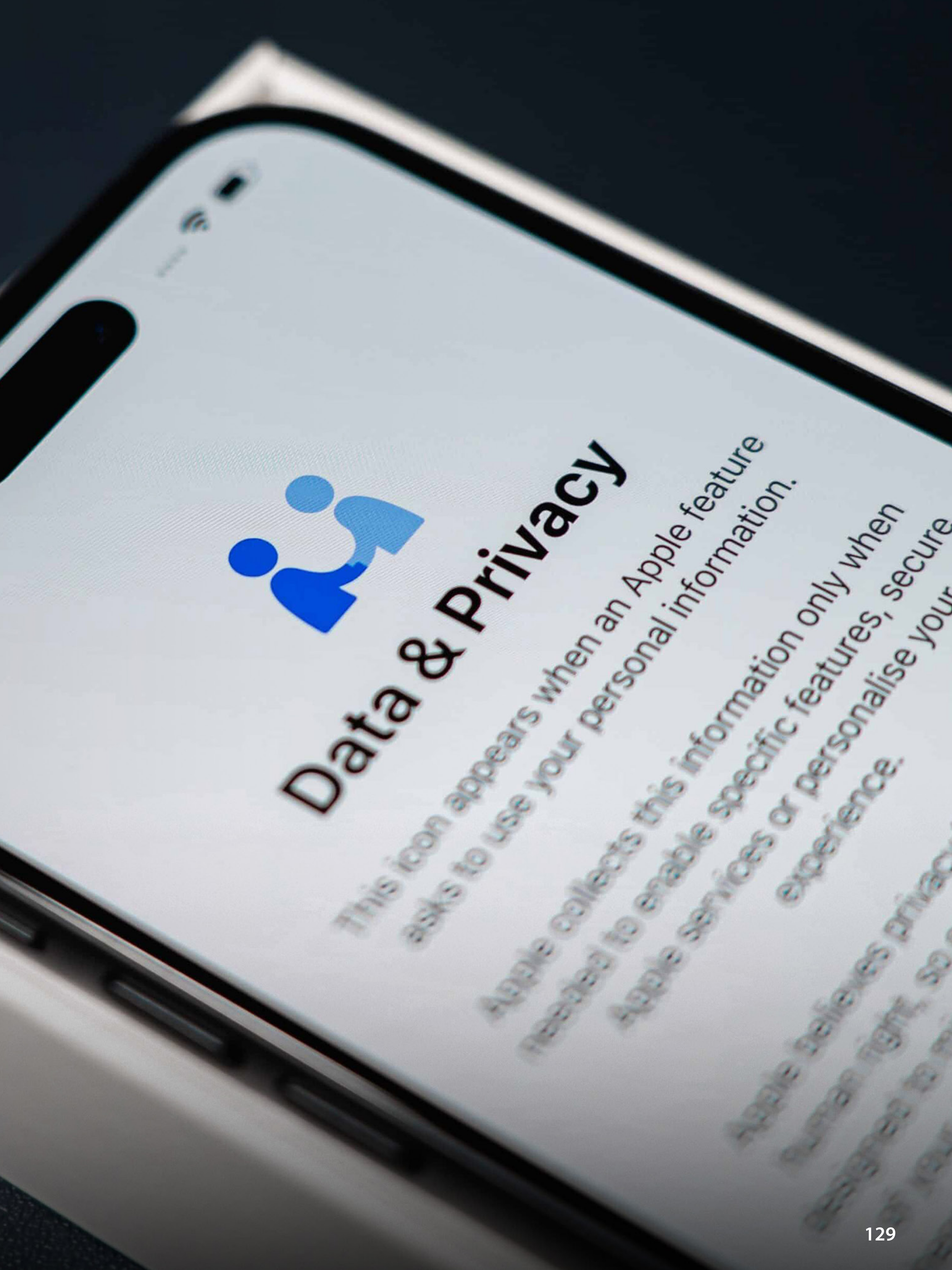
Apple's secure cloud servers are powered by custom Apple Silicon, with memory encryption and strict code verification at every stage. Users can review which AI tasks are processed on-device versus in the cloud, and Apple says it will publish third-party audit logs to verify that cloud requests follow privacy guarantees.

This end-to-end design makes Apple Intelligence one of the most privacy-centric AI implementations among major tech platforms, aiming to provide functionality without compromising user trust.

MULTIMODAL CAPABILITIES AND TOOL USE

Apple's models were trained to be multimodal, meaning they can understand and generate both text and visual content. This underpins new features like image generation in Messages, photo-based memory creation, and document understanding in Notes and Mail.

To expand functionality, Apple also introduced a tool use system that lets models invoke apps and services on behalf of users. For example, when a user says, "Schedule lunch with Sarah for next Thursday," the AI system may use Calendar, Contacts, and Messages in sequence to complete the task.



Data & Privacy

This icon appears when an Apple feature asks to use your personal information.

Apple collects this information only when needed to enable specific features, secure Apple services or personalise you experience.

Apple trained its models to understand the structure and capabilities of these apps through synthetic data generation—feeding the models mock interactions and feedback cycles that simulate real-world usage while maintaining user privacy.

CUSTOMIZATION AND PERSONAL CONTEXT

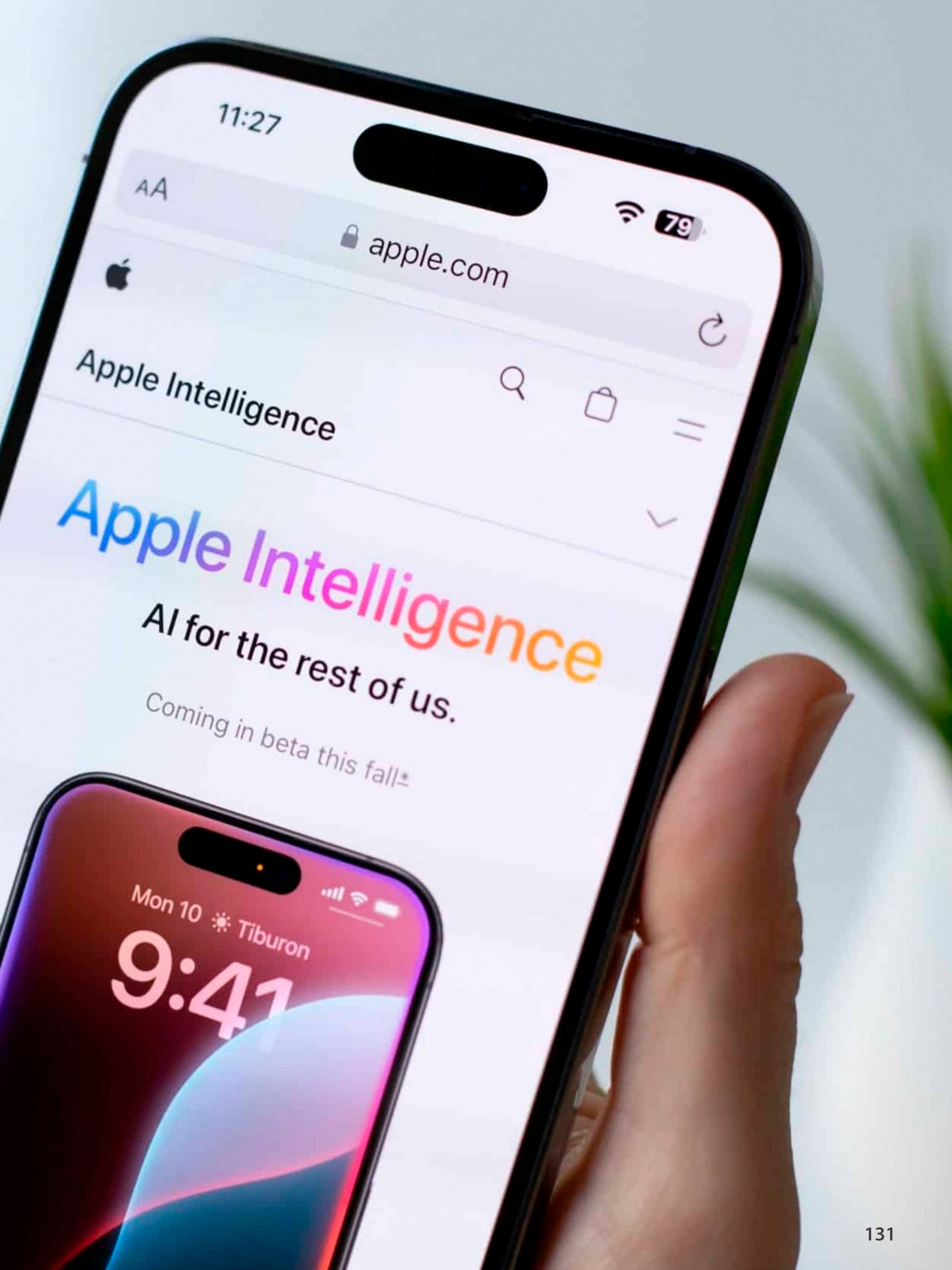
A defining feature of Apple Intelligence is its focus on personalization through private context. The AI system can draw on information such as recent messages, app activity, location, and calendar events to tailor responses—without uploading that context to the cloud.

This allows Apple's models to deliver contextually rich outputs, such as generating smart replies, surfacing relevant documents, or proactively suggesting actions. The company emphasized that this information remains on-device and is not used to train future models.

This personalized AI is core to Apple's vision of an assistant that "understands you, without watching you," according to Apple SVP Craig Federighi.

APPLE'S PATH FORWARD IN AI

With the release of Apple Intelligence across iOS, iPadOS, and macOS, Apple is entering the generative AI race with a clear focus on efficiency, integration, and privacy. The company has also announced a partnership with OpenAI to provide access to ChatGPT for users seeking broader web knowledge, though this integration is opt-in and runs separately from Apple's own models.


11:27
AA
apple.com
79
Apple Intelligence
Mon 10
Tiburon
9:41

Apple Intelligence

AI for the rest of us.

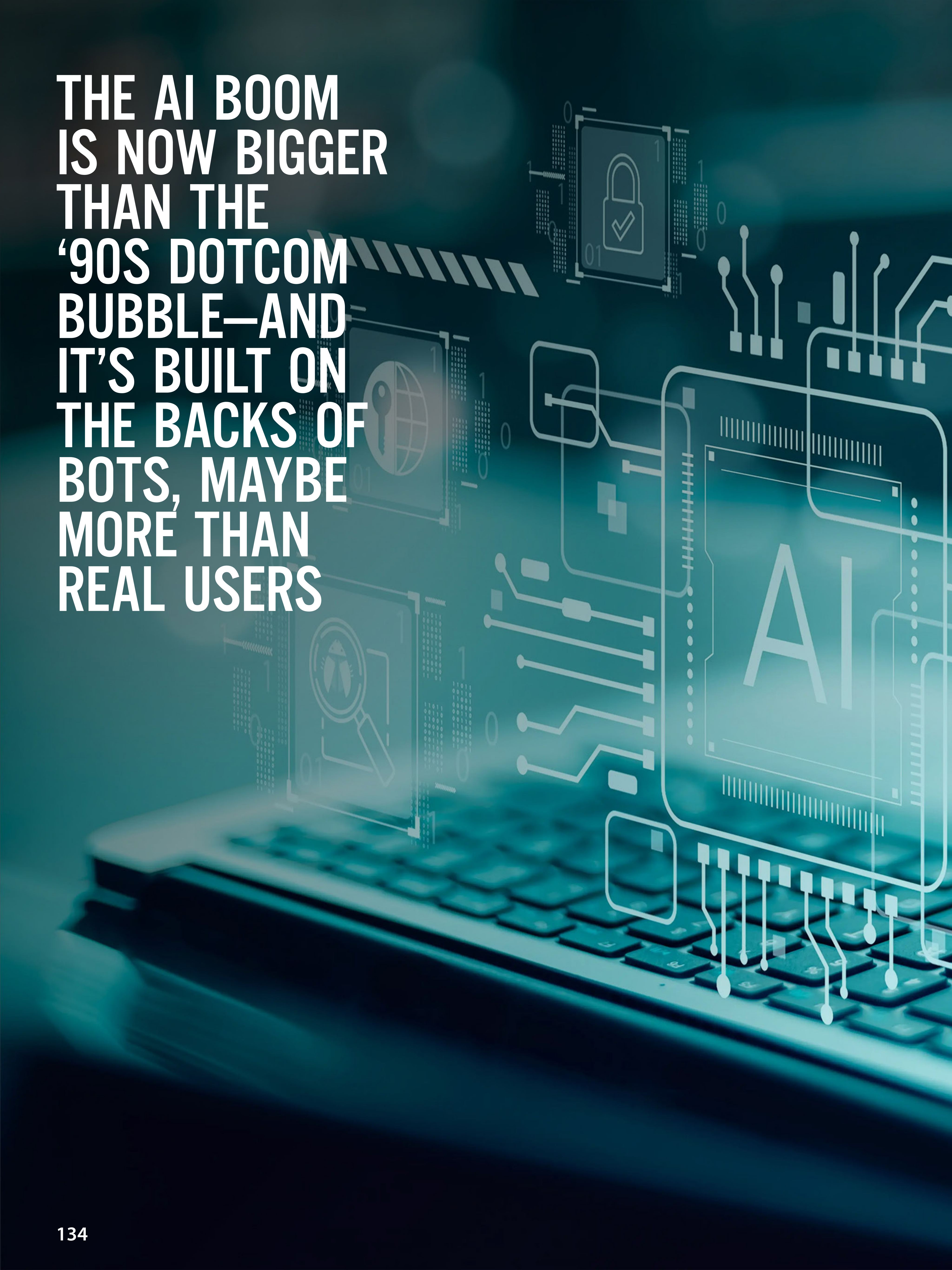
Coming in beta this fall*

The technical groundwork laid in its model training and deployment strategy shows that Apple is betting on smaller, task-specific AI that serves users directly within their workflows—rather than monolithic, general-purpose chatbots.

As generative AI becomes embedded in more of Apple’s ecosystem—from writing tools and email replies to image editing and smart search—how Apple trained its models will play a crucial role in shaping performance, trust, and long-term adoption.

Apple Intelligence is here.
Speak to a Specialist to learn more about Apple Intelligence.

THE AI BOOM IS NOW BIGGER THAN THE ‘90S DOTCOM BUBBLE—AND IT’S BUILT ON THE BACKS OF BOTS, MAYBE MORE THAN REAL USERS



The artificial intelligence boom has officially eclipsed the size and speed of the 1990s dotcom bubble, with tech giants and startups alike pouring billions into AI models, chips, and infrastructure. But as market valuations soar and product launches accelerate, an uncomfortable question is gaining traction: How much of this growth is driven by real human usage—and how much by bots, synthetic traffic, and automated systems?

From ChatGPT to Gemini, Claude to Copilot, the AI gold rush is reshaping the tech industry faster than any previous wave of innovation. Yet unlike the early internet, where metrics like monthly active users and page views were grounded in relatively clear user behavior, today's AI metrics are murkier—measured in prompts, API calls, model queries, and synthetic interactions that may or may not reflect sustainable human demand.

BIGGER THAN THE DOTCOM ERA—IN RECORD TIME

According to Goldman Sachs, the total market capitalization of companies heavily invested in AI has surpassed $25 trillion, outpacing the Nasdaq's peak valuation during the height of the dotcom bubble in 2000. NVIDIA alone—whose chips power most large-scale AI models—has reached a valuation above $3 trillion, becoming one of the most valuable companies on earth.

The pace of investment and valuation growth has stunned even seasoned investors. In just under 18 months, AI has gone from speculative frontier to the dominant narrative in tech and capital markets. From cloud giants to chipmakers, enterprise software to biotech, AI is

Goldman
Sachs

being integrated into nearly every sector, often with promises of exponential productivity gains and cost savings.

But as in the dotcom era, where websites with little revenue commanded sky-high valuations, the current AI frenzy is being fueled less by traditional financial performance and more by expectations of transformative impact. What's less clear is who—if anyone—is actually using many of these AI tools at the scale implied by their valuations.

THE BOT BEHIND THE CURTAIN

One of the key concerns emerging across the AI industry is the blurring of user metrics. AI platforms are often judged by usage data such as prompt volumes, inference requests, and active sessions—but these figures increasingly include machine-generated traffic, such as other bots querying models, automated tools testing outputs, or even models talking to models.

In some cases, AI tools are being used by other AIs to generate content, summarize documents, or feed fine-tuning pipelines—creating a feedback loop that inflates usage without necessarily reflecting human adoption. API platforms report massive growth in traffic, but few offer clear breakdowns of how much of that volume is tied to real users vs. synthetic or automated systems.

Analysts warn that this dynamic may be artificially inflating the apparent demand for AI, especially among VC-backed startups and platform providers racing to show traction. This echoes concerns from the early web, when ad impressions and traffic stats were sometimes gamed to attract funding or acquisition offers.

INVESTORS BANKING ON HYPERSCALE—WITH LIMITED VISIBILITY

Despite the opaque usage data, capital continues to flood into AI infrastructure. Cloud providers like Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, and Amazon Web Services are investing tens of billions of dollars to support AI workloads. Nvidia's GPU clusters are backordered well into 2025, and new entrants are building specialized data centers to train next-generation foundation models.

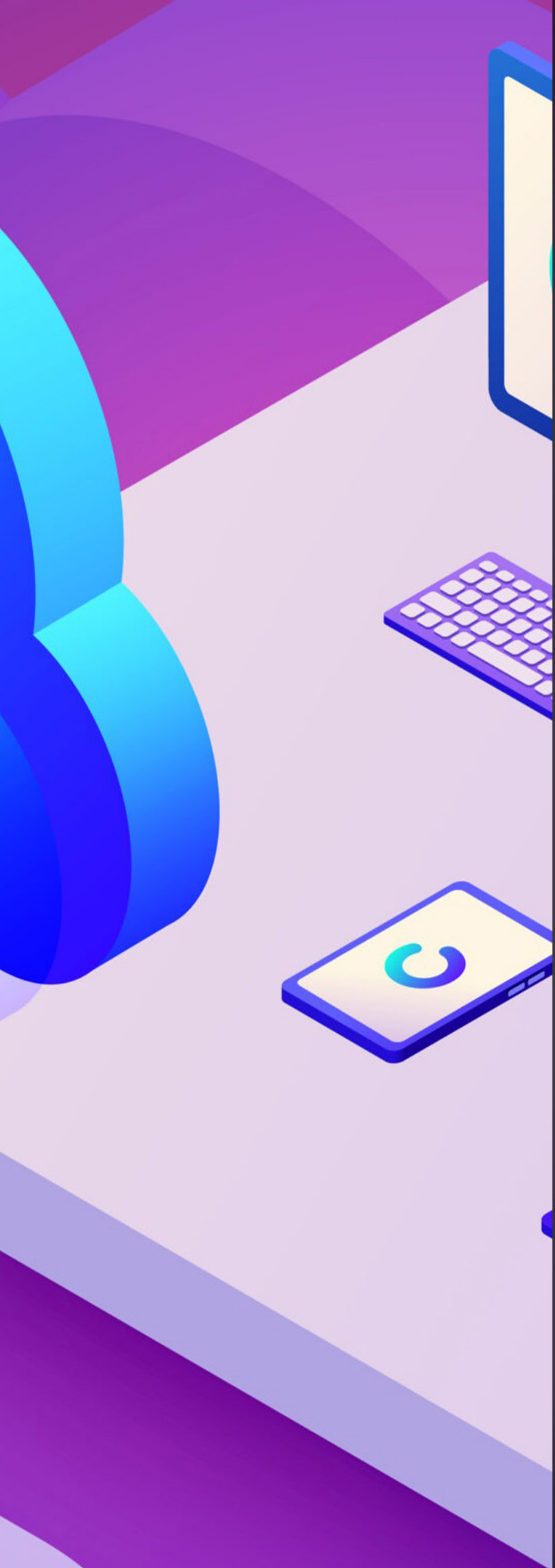
Startups with minimal revenue but compelling AI narratives are being funded at billion-dollar valuations, much as dotcom darlings once were. But many of these companies have yet to establish real business models, relying on subsidized compute, experimental products, and hype-driven adoption to stay afloat.

A key difference this time is that AI is deeply tied to compute infrastructure—meaning even if user demand plateaus or slows, the hardware and cloud consumption may continue to grow, propped up by development, testing, and internal experimentation. This makes it harder to identify the point at which AI usage is inflated versus merely exploratory.

ARE HUMANS BEING LEFT OUT OF THE LOOP?

As generative AI becomes embedded into everything from emails to coding tools, a portion of user interaction is passive or invisible. Microsoft's Copilot tools for Office products, for

VIDIA



example, run in the background, summarizing documents or suggesting replies with minimal user input. This has led to questions about what qualifies as "active usage" and whether AI adoption metrics reflect real user engagement or simply embedded automation.

There's also concern that the speed of AI development is outpacing consumer readiness. While early adopters, developers, and tech professionals are engaging with tools like ChatGPT or Claude, the average user may not yet see daily value in them. For every viral demo, there are hundreds of unused AI integrations hidden inside apps people barely open.

In this context, AI growth may not reflect a user-driven revolution so much as a top-down infrastructure buildout, with tech firms anticipating future demand before it fully materializes.

A MARKET DEFINED BY POTENTIAL—NOT PERFORMANCE

Much like the dotcom boom, the AI economy is being driven by potential more than actual performance. The belief is that generative AI will transform industries, redefine labor, and become as central to productivity as the internet or electricity. And that may eventually prove true.

But in the short term, the economic model is still forming. Most generative AI tools are free or freemium. Enterprise clients are testing pilots. Consumer adoption is uneven. And many of the most hyped use cases—AI agents, real-time avatars, self-improving bots—remain experimental.

If the industry doesn't ground its growth in transparent, human-centered metrics, it risks building a future of inflated expectations—one where bots talk to bots, valuations soar, and the core user base never fully arrives.

THE AI BUBBLE—OR THE AI FOUNDATION?

Whether the current moment is a bubble or the early stage of a multi-decade infrastructure shift depends on what comes next. If AI continues to improve and unlock new tools for real people and businesses, the investment will seem justified. But if usage remains opaque, bot-driven, or confined to niche communities, the market may correct sharply—just as it did when the dotcom bubble burst.

For now, the AI boom rolls on—powered by record GPU orders, historic valuations, and a growing belief that intelligence at scale is the next great technological frontier. But beneath the exponential curves and compute clusters, one question remains: Who's actually using this—and how much of it is real?

FOLDABLE IPHONE TIPPED TO LAUNCH IN 2026, WITH 7.8-INCH DISPLAY

Apple is reportedly preparing to enter the foldable smartphone market with a long-rumored foldable iPhone projected to launch in 2026, according to a new supply chain report. The device is expected to feature a 7.8-inch display, positioning it as a direct competitor to Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold series and other large-format foldables. The initial price point is anticipated to be around $2,000, placing it at the high end of the premium device segment.

While Apple has yet to confirm any details publicly, multiple sources in the display and component supply chain indicate that the tech giant is accelerating development of its first foldable device, following years of research, patent filings, and internal testing.

A NEW FORM FACTOR FOR THE IPHONE

The foldable iPhone is expected to adopt a book-style folding design, similar to that of the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 5, featuring a main internal display that unfolds into a small tablet, along with a secondary external screen for use when the device is closed.

According to reports from industry sources in South Korea and Taiwan, the primary display will measure approximately 7.8 inches when unfolded, using flexible OLED technology developed by Samsung Display and LG Display. Apple is reportedly working closely with both suppliers to refine crease reduction, durability, and color performance standards that meet its premium quality benchmarks.

The external cover screen, which may measure between 5.4 and 6.1 inches, is designed for quick tasks such as messaging, calling, and app navigation without requiring users to unfold the device.

TARGETING THE ULTRA-PREMIUM MARKET

At a rumored price point near $2,000, the foldable iPhone would become Apple's most expensive iPhone ever, exceeding the current price of the iPhone 15 Pro Max and aligning with other foldable flagships in the Android market.

Analysts suggest that Apple is positioning the device as a luxury-tier product for early adopters and productivity-focused users, rather than a mainstream iPhone replacement. The foldable could also serve as a hybrid between iPhone and iPad, appealing to users who want larger screen real estate without carrying two devices.

According to supply chain analyst Jeff Pu of Haitong International Securities, Apple is aiming for a limited release at launch, with volume production potentially reaching several million units by the second half of 2026, depending on market response and production scalability.

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Image: Michal Dufka

Image: Tarun Raj

DEVELOPMENT FOCUSED ON DURABILITY AND UX

Apple's cautious approach to foldable tech stands in contrast to Android rivals, many of whom rushed to market in recent years with first-generation devices that drew criticism for fragility, screen creases, and software inconsistencies. Apple is reportedly taking extra time to engineer a robust hinge system, enhance display longevity, and optimize the iOS interface for dual-screen and tablet-style use.

The company has filed numerous patents over the past several years covering foldable displays, self-healing screen materials, and bendable glass. Sources say Apple is testing multiple prototypes internally, including both inward and outward folding concepts, though the current plan leans toward a traditional inward fold for better display protection.

Apple is also expected to implement custom software features in iOS to enhance multitasking, split-screen usage, and seamless transitions between folded and unfolded modes—borrowing ideas from iPadOS while maintaining the core iPhone experience.

COMPETITIVE PRESSURE AND MARKET TIMING

While Samsung has dominated the foldable segment with its Z Fold and Z Flip lines, other players like Google (Pixel Fold), Huawei (Mate X series), and OnePlus (Open) are expanding offerings as the foldable market grows. However, overall adoption remains limited due to price, durability, and limited app optimization.

Apple's entry in 2026 would come as foldable devices begin to move into their second generation of refinement, giving Apple time to avoid early pitfalls and capitalize on more mature display and hinge technologies.

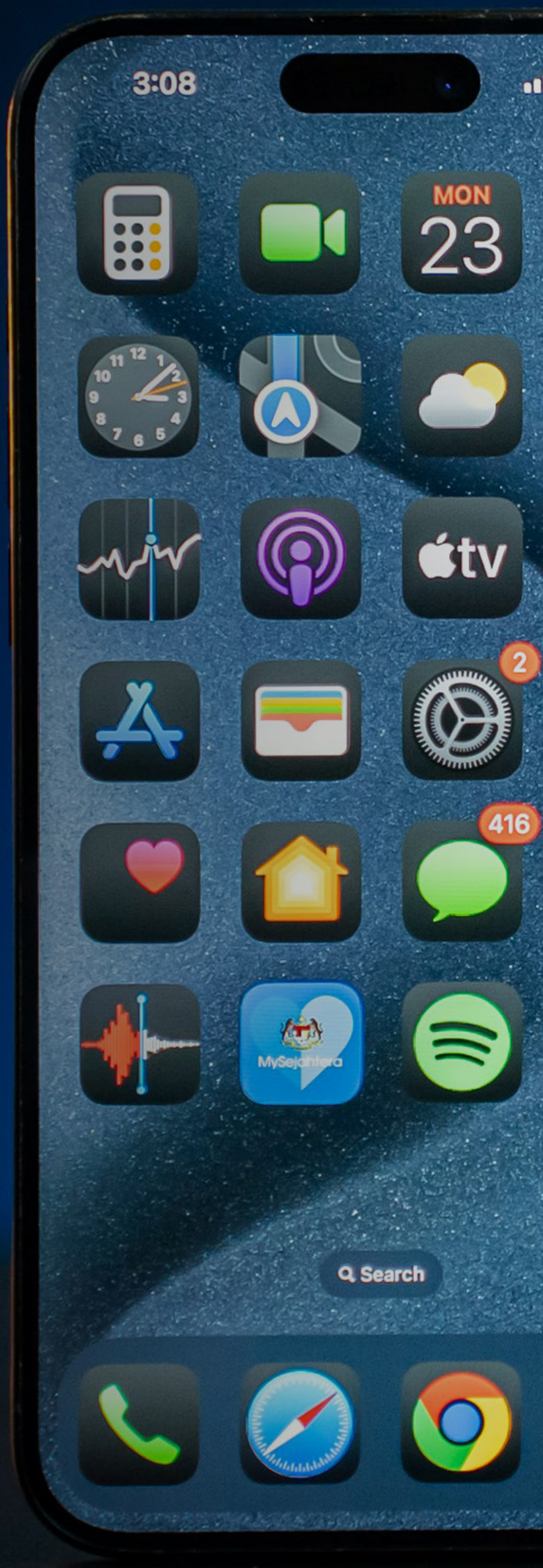
Analysts from TrendForce estimate that global foldable smartphone shipments will reach 30 million units annually by 2026, up from 18 million in 2024. Apple's involvement could significantly boost consumer interest and accelerate app ecosystem development for foldable-specific experiences.

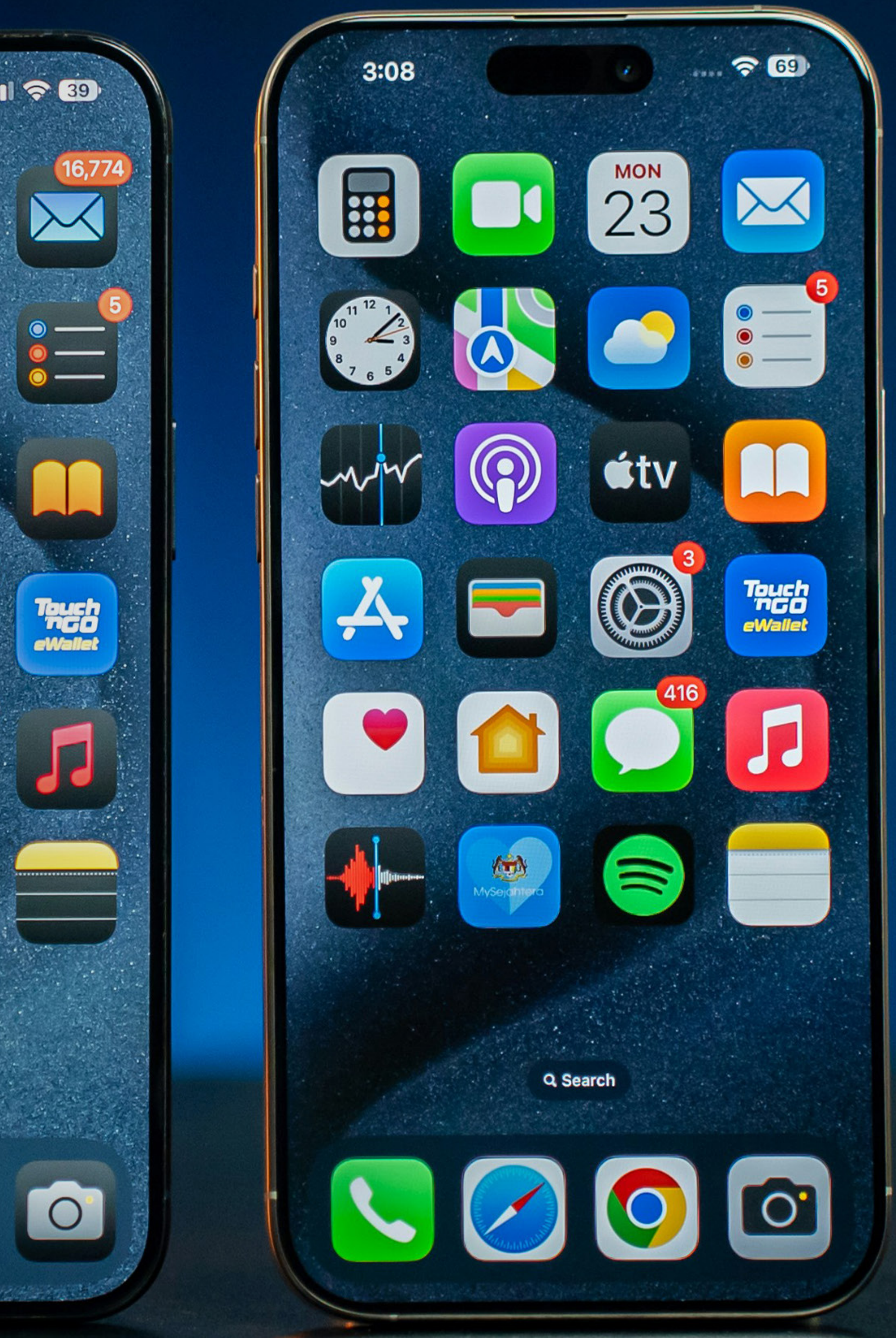
WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

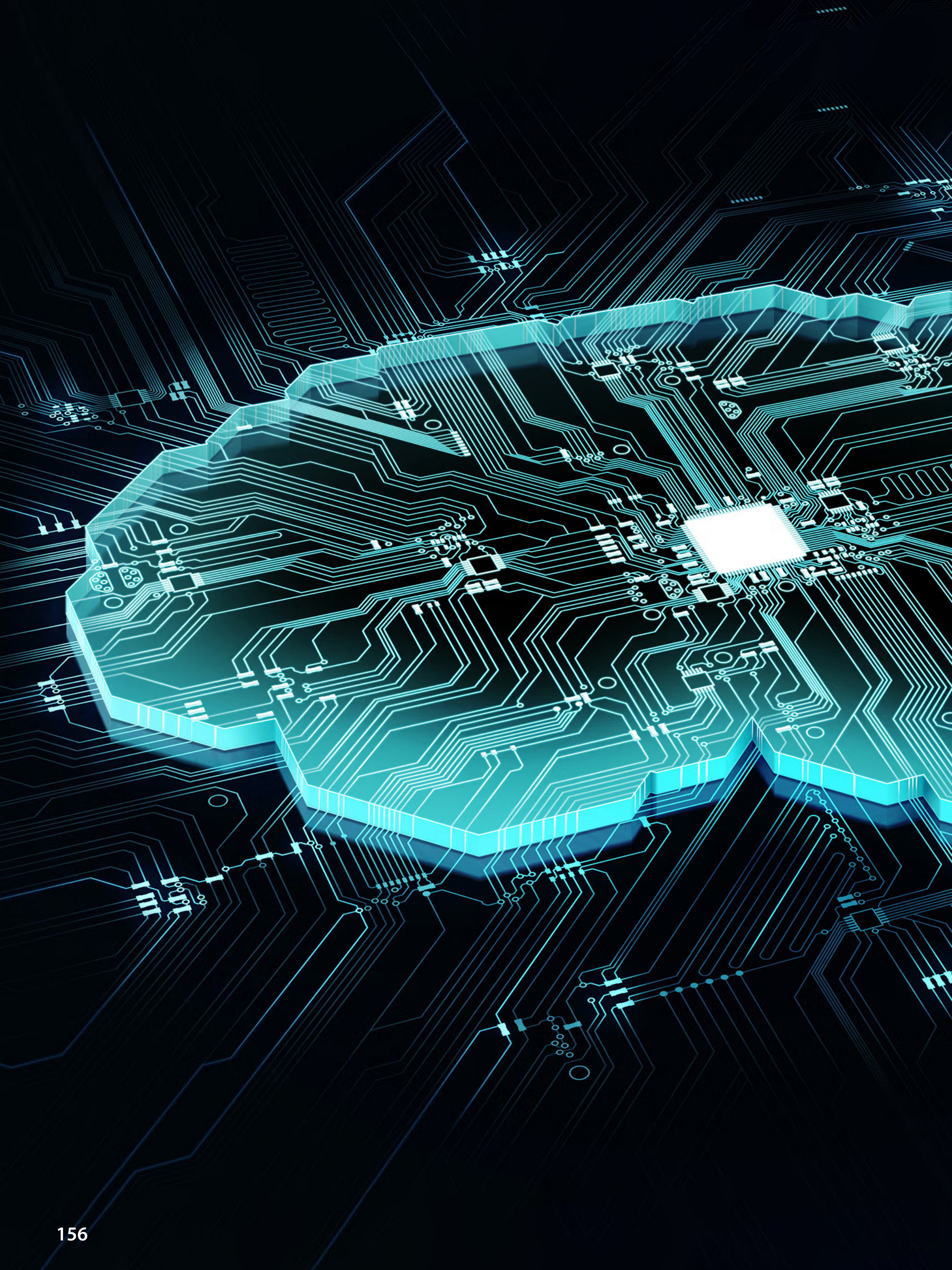
Although 2026 remains a speculative target, sources suggest that Apple could preview its foldable strategy through prototypes or patent disclosures in the lead-up to launch. The company may also use upcoming iPad developments as a testing ground for foldable user interface concepts and multi-display navigation tools.

Meanwhile, Apple continues to invest in display innovations—including microLED and under-display Face ID—many of which could find their way into the foldable lineup. The iPhone Fold, or whatever final branding Apple chooses, is likely to become the centerpiece of Apple's hardware roadmap in the second half of the decade.

With design, pricing, and functionality now taking clearer shape, the foldable iPhone may soon become Apple's boldest step forward since the debut of the original iPhone in 2007.







CHINA IS CATCHING UP TO THE US IN BRAIN TECH, RIVALING FIRMS LIKE ELON MUSK'S NEURALINK

China is rapidly advancing in the field of brain-computer interface (BCI) technology, emerging as a serious competitor to U.S. companies like Elon Musk's Neuralink. Backed by state funding, university research labs, and growing interest from private tech firms, China's neuroscience and neurotechnology sector is beginning to match—if not exceed—some of the early milestones achieved by American counterparts.

As brain-computer interfaces gain traction in medical, defense, and consumer applications, the global race to dominate the next generation of human-machine integration is intensifying. China's progress signals a shift in the landscape, raising strategic and ethical questions about who will lead in one of the most consequential technology frontiers of the 21st century.

CHINA'S RAPID RISE IN BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACE RESEARCH

Over the past decade, China has dramatically increased its investments in neuroscience and neuroengineering. Institutions such as Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences have established dedicated BCI labs, producing a growing body of research on neural decoding, brain signal processing, and direct brain-to-device communication.

According to a 2024 report from the China Brain Project—a national initiative launched in 2016 to advance brain science—Chinese researchers now publish more BCI-related scientific papers annually than their U.S. counterparts. These studies range from experimental neural implants and non-invasive interfaces to real-time EEG-based control systems.

In one high-profile demonstration, scientists at Nankai University unveiled a non-invasive BCI system that allowed users to type words on a screen using only their brain waves, achieving competitive speeds without requiring surgical implants. Another research team developed a brain-controlled robotic arm that showed strong promise for rehabilitation and assistive technologies.

NEURALINK

STATE-BACKED FUNDING AND STRATEGIC INCENTIVES

Unlike the private-led innovation model that drives most BCI development in the U.S., China's rise in brain tech is heavily shaped by state sponsorship and long-term strategic planning. The Chinese government views neurotechnology as a critical frontier for national development, with potential applications in healthcare, defense, and AI.

The China Brain Project, part of a broader 15-year science strategy, allocates significant funding toward mapping neural circuits, developing treatment methods for cognitive diseases, and building brain-machine interfaces. Additionally, the Ministry of Science and Technology has included BCIs in its "new-generation AI development plan," signaling integration between neuroscience and artificial intelligence as a national priority.

This coordinated approach offers Chinese labs consistent funding, access to massive datasets, and streamlined pathways from lab research to commercial application—giving the country a structural advantage in scaling neurotech innovation.

Image: Carolyn Kaster

COMPETITION WITH NEURALINK AND OTHER WESTERN PLAYERS

In the U.S., Neuralink has dominated headlines for its ambitious plans to develop surgically implanted BCIs that allow direct interaction between the human brain and digital devices. The company recently received FDA approval for human clinical trials, and its first patient was able to control a computer cursor using thought alone—an achievement hailed as a major milestone.

However, Chinese researchers are now demonstrating parallel breakthroughs. Beijing-based startup NeuraMatrix has begun animal trials with high-resolution neural implants that use flexible electrode arrays to minimize tissue damage. Other firms are exploring wireless implantable devices and AI-powered brain-signal decoding at par with Western efforts.

A 2023 review by Nature Neuroscience noted that several Chinese-developed BCI systems now match or outperform Western models in signal accuracy and real-time responsiveness—especially in non-invasive applications.

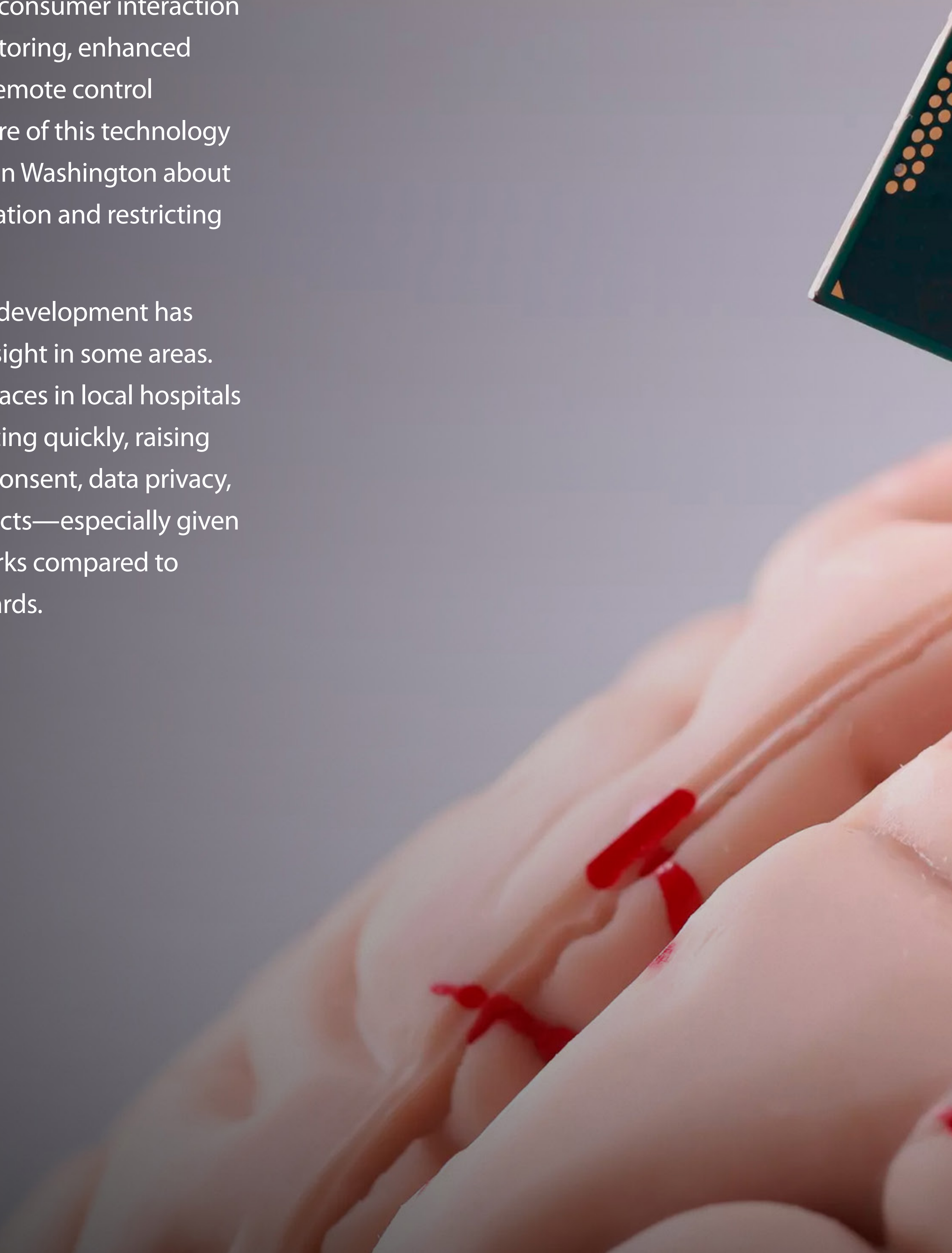
While Neuralink focuses on high-risk, high-reward brain surgery-based interfaces, many Chinese teams are optimizing non-invasive alternatives that are more accessible, scalable, and potentially more suitable for commercial use in the near term.

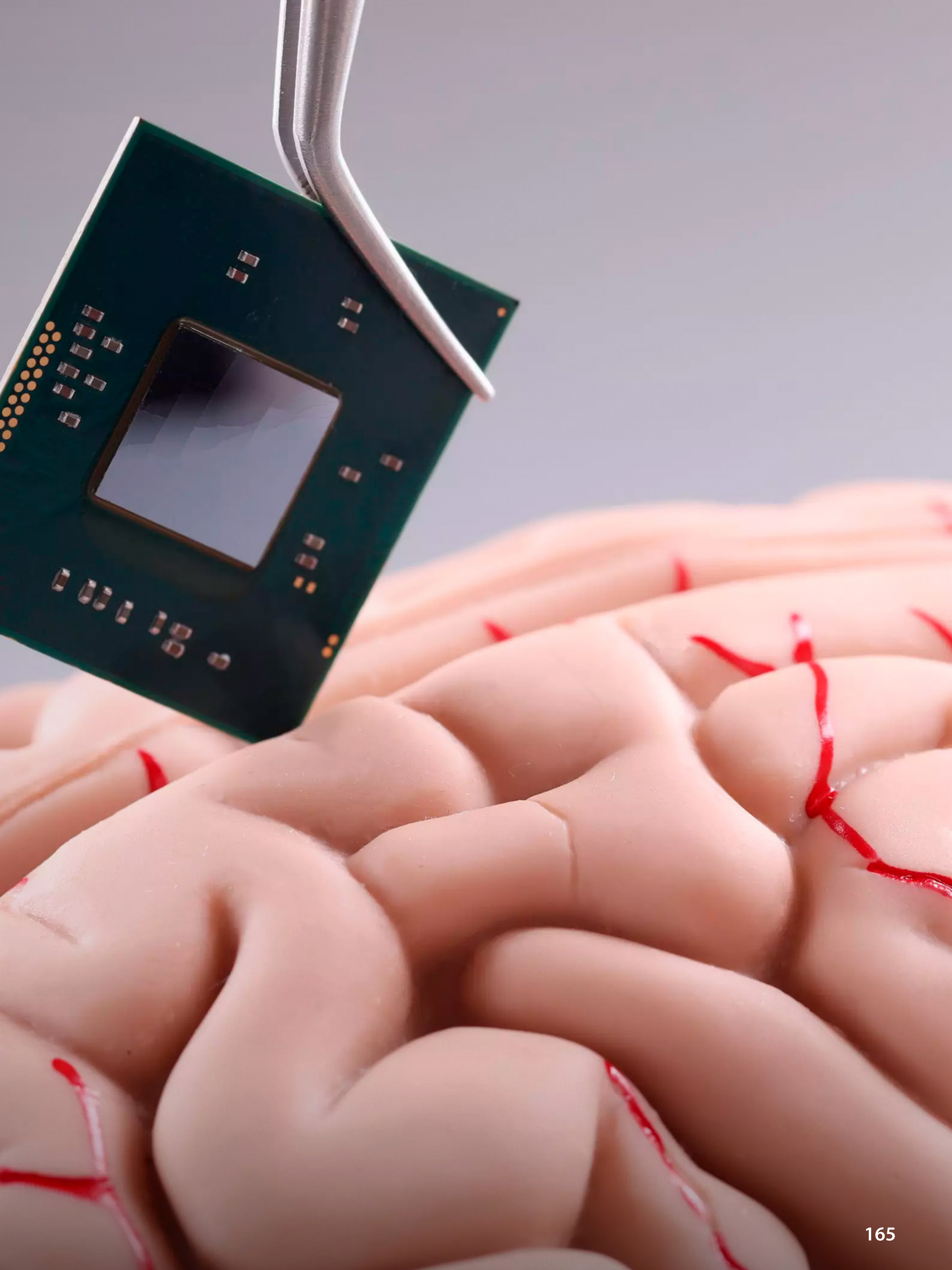
ETHICAL AND SECURITY CONCERNS

As the technology races ahead, ethical and national security concerns are mounting on both sides. U.S. defense officials have raised alarms over the potential military applications of Chinese neurotechnology, especially given China's history of dual-use tech development and state surveillance.

BCIs could potentially be used not only for medical rehabilitation and consumer interaction but also for cognitive monitoring, enhanced soldier performance, and remote control systems. The dual-use nature of this technology has prompted discussions in Washington about safeguarding critical innovation and restricting sensitive BCI exports.

In China, the rapid pace of development has also outpaced ethical oversight in some areas. Human trials of brain interfaces in local hospitals and universities are advancing quickly, raising concerns about informed consent, data privacy, and long-term health impacts—especially given looser regulatory frameworks compared to Western clinical trial standards.





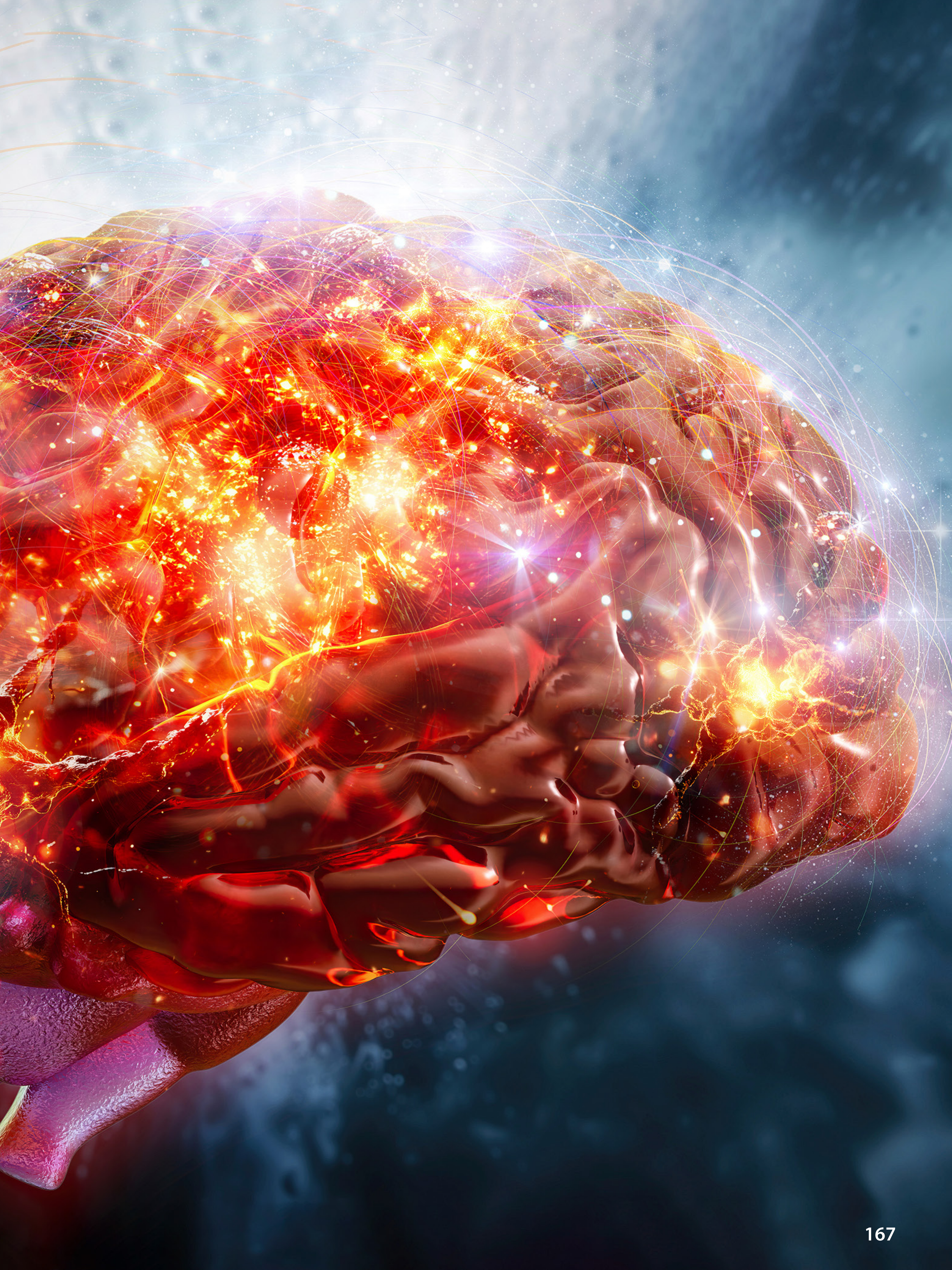
GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF NEUROTECH

The rise of China in the brain tech race reflects broader shifts in global technological leadership. As neuroscience merges with AI, biotechnology, and wearable devices, brain-computer interfaces are poised to become central to how humans interact with machines, access information, and even treat neurological disorders.

A new wave of global competition is unfolding—not just to develop the most advanced BCI devices, but to shape the standards, ethics, and commercial platforms that will define the brain-computer economy of the future.

U.S. firms like Neuralink, Synchron, and Kernel remain at the forefront in terms of surgical innovation, but China's momentum in research scale, non-invasive solutions, and state coordination positions it as a formidable challenger in the decade ahead.

Whether the future of brain tech is open and globally cooperative or divided along geopolitical lines remains an open question. But what is clear is that China is no longer trailing behind—it's rapidly catching up, and in some domains, already competing head-to-head with the most advanced players in the world.



APPLE'S 'MADE IN INDIA' IPHONE TAKES FLIGHT

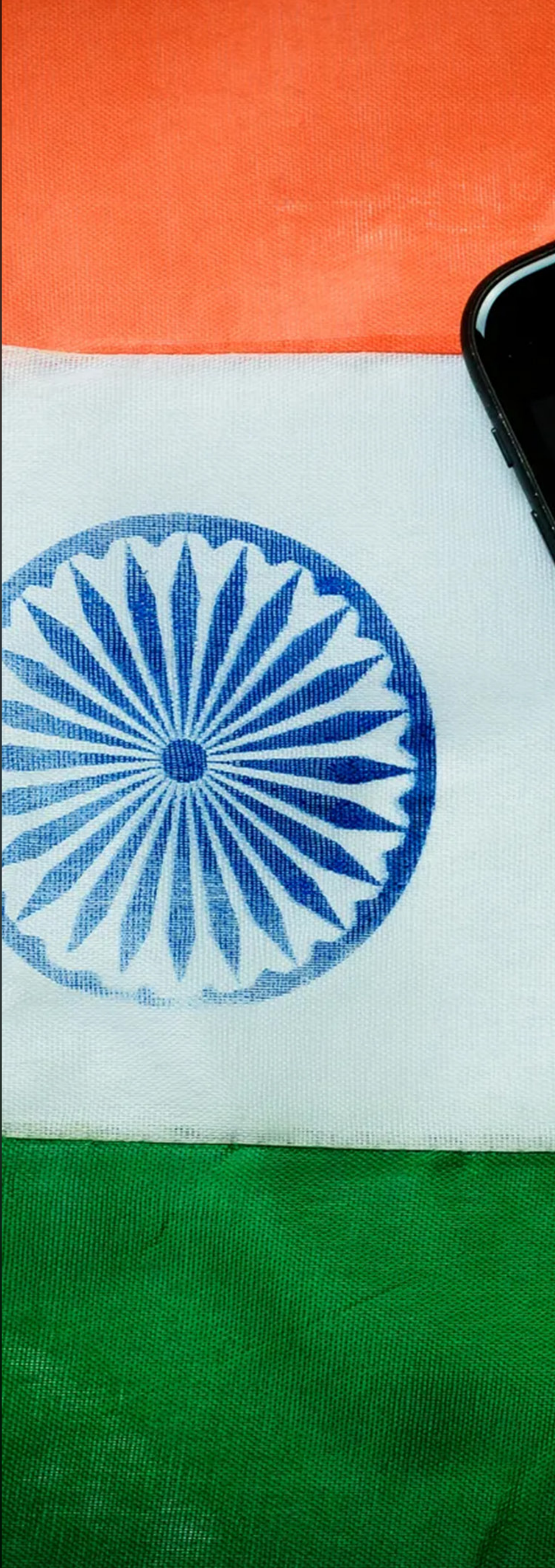
Apple's push to diversify its global manufacturing base is gaining momentum, as the company's 'Made in India' iPhone production enters a new phase of expansion and scale. With the latest iPhone models now being assembled and exported from Indian facilities, Apple is rapidly transforming India into a key pillar of its global supply chain—a shift with major implications for both the tech giant and the country's growing electronics industry.

After years of production trial runs and local component sourcing, Apple's India strategy is no longer just about meeting domestic demand. The company is now exporting Indian-assembled iPhones to global markets, marking a significant shift in manufacturing power traditionally held by China.

INDIA'S RISE AS A STRATEGIC MANUFACTURING HUB

Apple began assembling iPhones in India in 2017 through its manufacturing partner Wistron, initially focusing on older models for local distribution. In the years since, the company has steadily increased investment in Indian production, bringing on additional partners like Foxconn and Pegatron and expanding operations in key regions such as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

By 2023, Apple had moved to manufacture new iPhone models in India just weeks after their global debut, including the iPhone 15 series. Now, with the company exporting millions of devices assembled on Indian soil, Apple's India production has transitioned from a cost-containment measure to a core component of its supply chain resilience strategy.



iPhone 14 Plus
iPhone 14
iPhone 14 Plus

iPhone 14 Pro
iPhone 14 Pro

According to government and industry sources, more than $10 billion worth of iPhones are expected to be exported from India in 2025 alone—a sharp increase from previous years and a signal that India is no longer just a backup option, but a primary production site.

A SHIFT AWAY FROM CHINA DEPENDENCE

Apple's manufacturing diversification comes in response to geopolitical uncertainty, trade tensions, and pandemic-era disruptions that exposed the vulnerabilities of overreliance on Chinese factories. While China remains central to Apple's operations, the company is actively working to reduce its exposure by establishing parallel production capabilities in countries like India and Vietnam.

India offers several advantages: a large, young workforce, government incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and growing support for high-end manufacturing infrastructure. With Apple now assembling its flagship devices in India and meeting global standards for quality, the country is emerging as a critical alternative to China for premium smartphone production.

Foxconn, one of Apple's largest contract manufacturers, is expanding its footprint with multiple new facilities under development across southern India. The company has also pledged billions in investment to increase capacity and train local talent, with a long-term goal of supporting end-to-end manufacturing—beyond assembly alone.

BOOSTING INDIA'S TECH ECONOMY

The success of Apple's iPhone production has a ripple effect across India's broader tech ecosystem. Local suppliers, logistics providers, and component manufacturers are being integrated into Apple's value chain, bringing jobs, capital, and technological know-how to regions that were previously outside the high-tech industrial map.

The Indian government has celebrated Apple's growth as a case study in the effectiveness of its "Make in India" initiative, which aims to turn the country into a global manufacturing powerhouse. According to India's Ministry of Electronics and IT, Apple now employs tens of thousands of workers directly and indirectly across its supply chain, with more expected as production ramps up.

There are also early signs that India could eventually take on more complex roles, such as PCB assembly, semiconductor packaging, and localized software support, positioning it as a more comprehensive hub for advanced electronics manufacturing.

THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF AN INDIAN-MADE IPHONE

The export of iPhones from India is not just a regional success story—it represents a broader restructuring of global technology manufacturing. As Apple and other firms shift parts of their supply chains out of China, countries like India, Vietnam, and Mexico are poised to benefit from a wave of industrial realignment driven by both risk mitigation and policy incentives.

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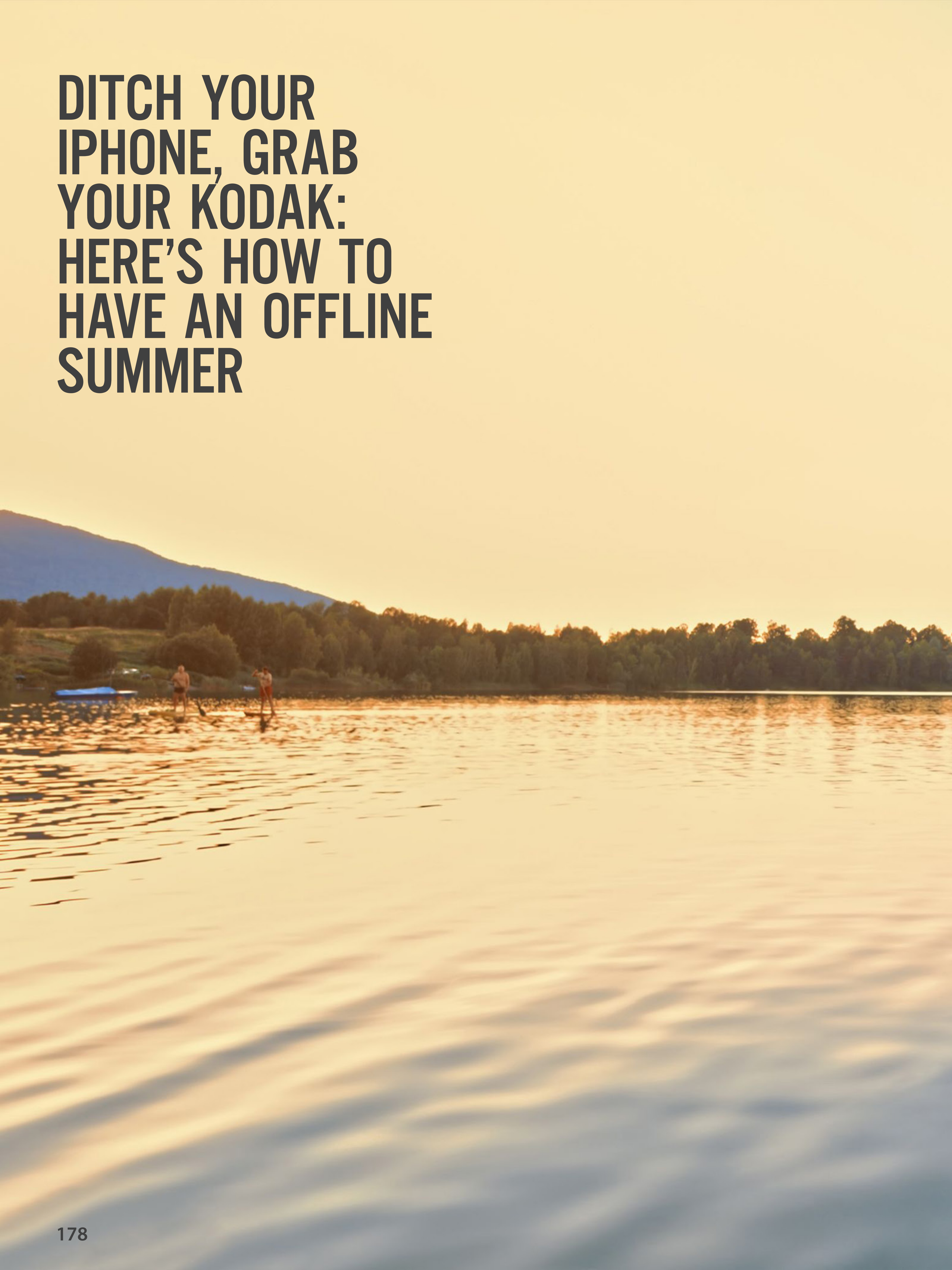
For consumers, this could mean greater supply chain flexibility, faster time-to-market for devices in various regions, and potentially lower production costs over time. For Apple, it reinforces the brand's commitment to operational adaptability and long-term sustainability in the face of geopolitical uncertainty.

With the iPhone now taking flight from Indian factories to global customers, Apple is not only reimagining where its devices are made, but also reshaping the geography of global tech production for the decade ahead.



DITCH YOUR IPHONE, GRAB YOUR KODAK: HERE'S HOW TO HAVE AN OFFLINE SUMMER

In a world constantly buzzing with notifications, scrolling feeds, and screen fatigue, more people are seeking refuge from digital overload. This summer, a growing number of travelers, creators, and families are swapping out their smartphones for old-school analog tools in pursuit of a quieter, more intentional experience. Leading the charge is a renewed love for the Kodak film camera, turning the idea of a fully offline summer into a nostalgic and surprisingly refreshing reality.

Whether you're spending a week at a cabin, backpacking through national parks, or simply trying to reclaim your weekends, ditching your iPhone for a season might be the unexpected mental reset you didn't know you needed.

The average American now spends over seven hours per day on screens, according to recent Nielsen data. Between work, streaming, and aimless scrolling, summer can easily slip away behind a layer of pixels. Taking a break from digital life—especially from your phone—can improve sleep, reduce anxiety, and help restore attention. By going offline, you create space to fully engage with your surroundings. Conversations become more genuine, meals more mindful, and moments more memorable—not because they're instantly shared online, but because they're fully lived.

A summer without an iPhone doesn't mean isolation—it means rethinking how you experience the world. And yes, you can still document it—just without a touchscreen.

One of the most popular swaps for smartphone photography is the Kodak Ektar H35, a compact half-frame 35mm film camera that's light,

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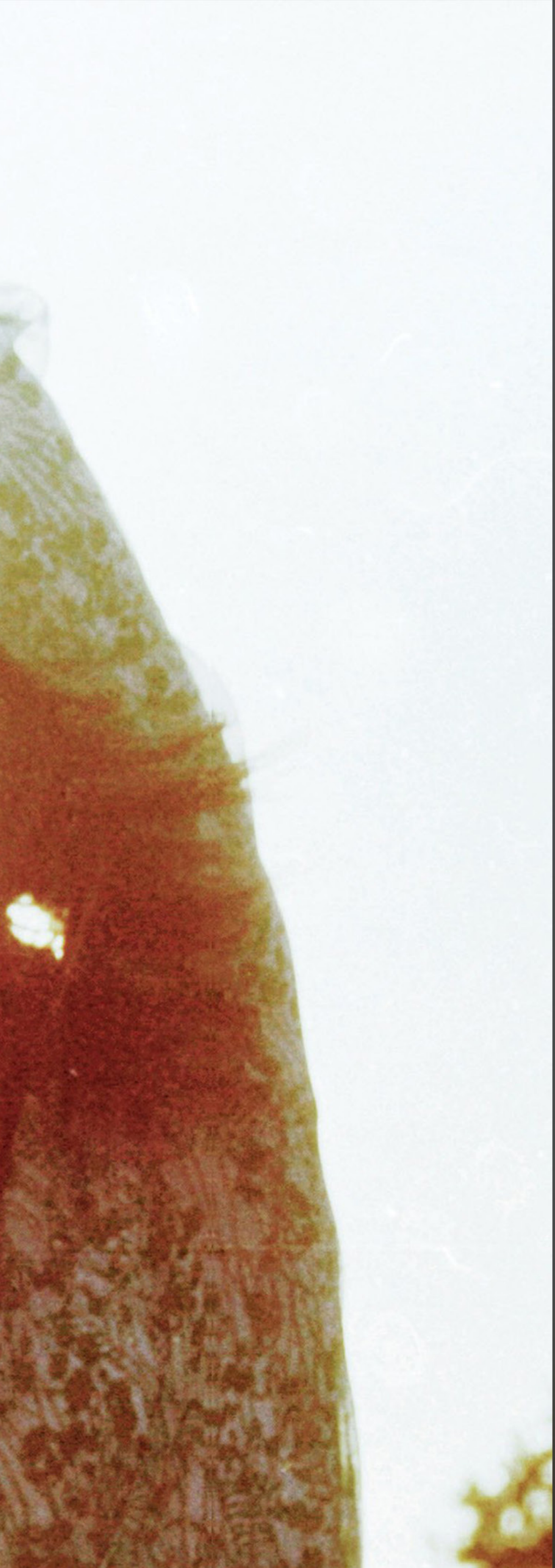

affordable, and great for casual shooting. Each roll of film allows you to capture dozens of moments deliberately, without the temptation to reshoot or edit. For those craving richer image quality and a more hands-on experience, vintage models like the Kodak Retina or Pentax K1000 are reappearing in thrift stores and online marketplaces. These analog cameras bring a tangible, deliberate process that slows you down and makes each shot matter. Unlike an iPhone, a Kodak camera won't distract you with app alerts or social feeds. It simply lets you frame, shoot, and move on.

Without digital maps, calendars, or note-taking apps, you'll rediscover the analog tools that defined summer travel before the smartphone era. A folded city map in your bag can guide your day's adventure just as well as GPS, with the added benefit of unexpected detours. Keeping a notebook or travel journal allows you to document thoughts and sketches by hand, preserving memories with a personal touch that no app can replicate. A simple wristwatch or bedside alarm clock replaces the need to constantly check your phone for the time, reducing the risk of getting pulled into screen distractions.

Going offline doesn't mean going unprepared. A small stack of paperbacks or magazines can replace endless digital content while giving your eyes a break from backlit screens. Disposable and instant cameras—such as the Kodak FunSaver or Fujifilm Instax—offer instant gratification without digital clutter. A dedicated MP3 player or portable FM radio lets you enjoy music without the distractions of streaming apps or incoming messages. And for

EKTAR H35
HALF FRAME CAMERA
Kodak

downtime, packing classic entertainment like card games, puzzle books, or a compact board game provides screen-free relaxation wherever you are. If you're concerned about being unreachable, let friends or family know ahead of time and set up a voicemail or email auto-response to manage expectations.

One of the most unexpected outcomes of going offline is how quickly it sharpens your attention. Without push notifications or the urge to photograph every detail for social media, you begin to notice the small things—the way light moves across the lake in the morning, the quiet rhythm of trees swaying, the feel of a cool breeze on your skin. You're not just unplugging from digital life—you're plugging back into the present. This shift in focus can reignite creativity, deepen relationships, and restore a healthier rhythm to your days.

The beauty of film photography and an offline lifestyle is that it encourages imperfection. Not every photo will be perfect, not every plan will be optimized. You won't have dozens of takes or instant edits. But that's the point. When your roll of film is full or your journal pages are spent, you're left with more than a highlight reel—you've created a personal archive of summer stories lived with intention.

So this summer, consider putting your iPhone aside. Pick up a Kodak, bring a map, carry a book, and let yourself rediscover what summer feels like without a screen in between.

Kodak
Kodak
Kodak
400
35mm color print film

i60
i60
Kodak
Kodacolor
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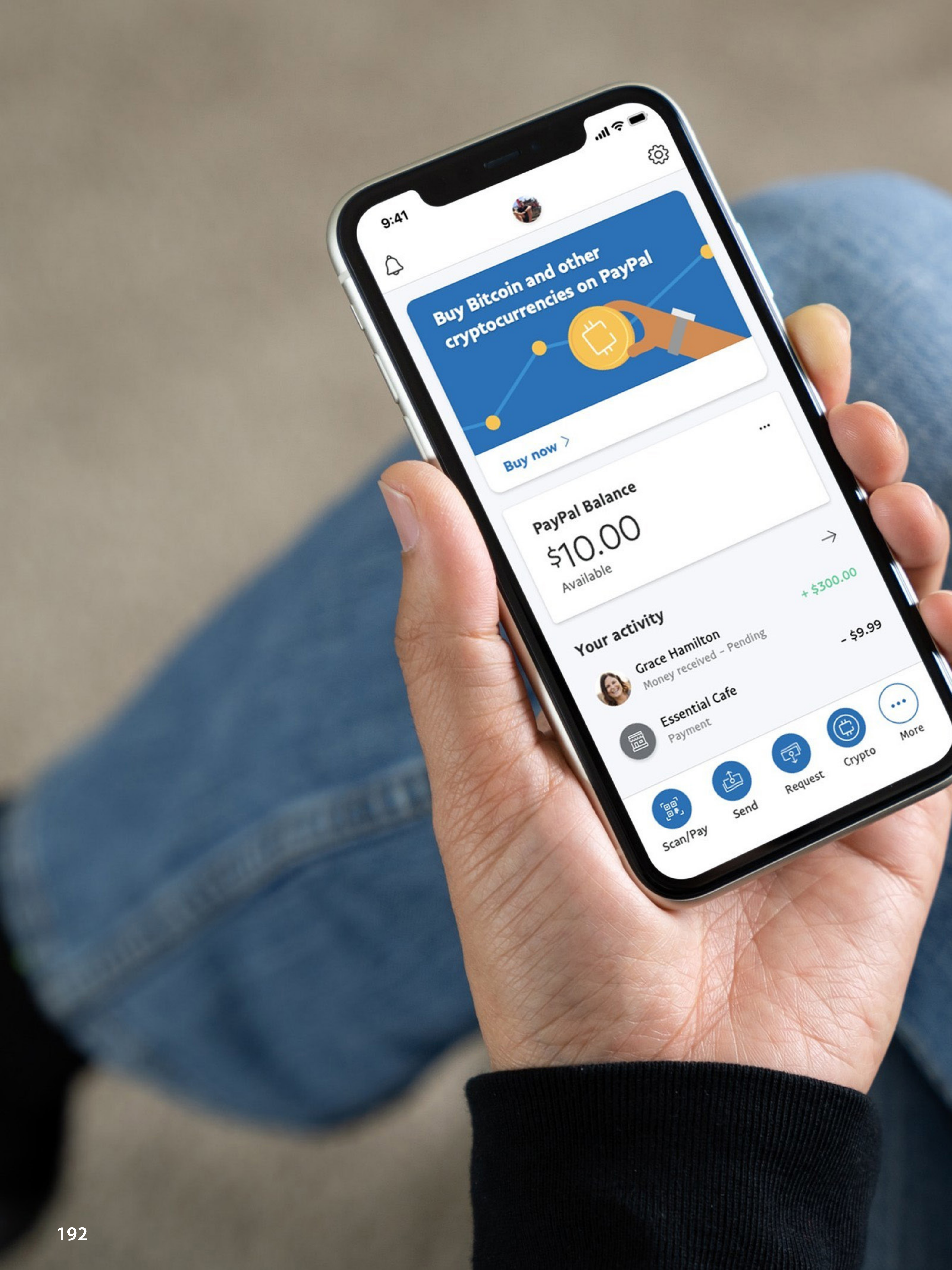
PAYPAL UNVEILS GLOBAL PAYMENT PLATFORM TO SIMPLIFY CROSS-BORDER TRANSFERS FOR 2 BILLION USERS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+ $300.00
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- $9.99
Scan/Pay
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Request
Crypto
More

PayPal has launched a redesigned cross-border payments platform that aims to streamline international money transfers for over 2 billion users worldwide. The new system reflects the company’s strategy to make digital payments faster, more accessible, and better suited for a growing global base of freelancers, remote workers, families, and small businesses that operate across borders.

The upgraded platform introduces a more efficient, real-time infrastructure that allows users to send and receive funds in over 150 currencies, directly to bank accounts, mobile wallets, and local payment providers. It’s a significant move for PayPal, which already processes hundreds of billions in global transactions annually but is now seeking to expand its role in remittances and small-scale global commerce.

REDUCING FRICTION IN GLOBAL TRANSFERS

Cross-border payments have long been challenged by high transaction fees, long settlement times, and limited support for local payment methods in emerging markets. PayPal’s new platform addresses these pain points through a unified backend that supports faster settlements, transparent pricing, and integration with popular local systems such as India’s UPI, Africa’s M-Pesa, and various digital wallets across Latin America and Southeast Asia.

The company says the update will reduce reliance on traditional correspondent banking networks, using intelligent routing and compliance automation to clear transfers more quickly and securely. The platform also features real-time currency conversion tools, allowing users to view rates and fees before completing a transaction—removing the uncertainty that has historically accompanied cross-border money movement.

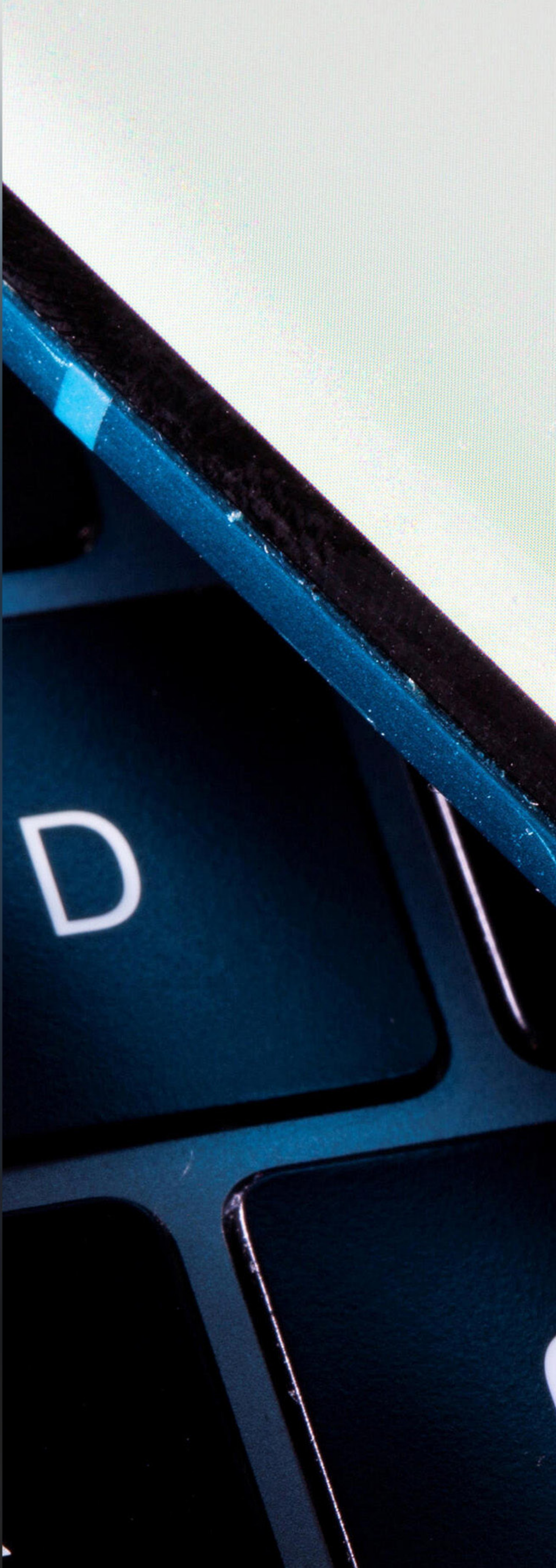
A STRATEGIC PLAY FOR EMERGING MARKETS

One of the platform's main focuses is expanding financial access in underbanked regions, where consumers often lack access to traditional bank accounts but are increasingly connected via mobile. By offering direct payout and top-up options to local wallets and mobile money services, PayPal aims to serve more users in countries where banking infrastructure is limited but smartphone usage is high.

This move also aligns with broader macroeconomic trends. The World Bank projects remittances to low- and middle-income countries will surpass $700 billion by 2025, as digital channels become the preferred method for personal and family transfers. PayPal is positioning itself to capitalize on that shift, offering services tailored to both senders and recipients in markets where cross-border money flows represent a major source of income.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND FREELANCERS TO BENEFIT

The platform also addresses a key pain point for small business owners and freelancers who rely on fast, low-cost international payments. With more than 400 million active PayPal accounts globally, the company is leaning into its network advantage to support creators, remote teams, and entrepreneurs in getting paid across currencies and regions.



PayPal
C

PayPal

For sellers on platforms like Etsy, Fiverr, or Shopify, or professionals working with clients abroad, the updated service reduces transfer times and lowers fees compared to traditional wire transfers. Businesses will also benefit from simplified reporting tools and automated currency conversion that reduces the need for external processing or third-party intermediaries.

COMPETITION AND FUTURE GROWTH

PayPal's move comes as the global cross-border payments sector becomes more crowded, with fintechs like Wise, Revolut, and Remitly offering increasingly sophisticated tools for individual and business transfers. But PayPal's brand recognition, scale, and integration across e-commerce and financial services ecosystems give it an edge as it modernizes its infrastructure.

The platform's rollout will continue in phases throughout 2025, with localized support and language options expanding in tandem. Company executives have said the new system is part of PayPal's broader push to become the "preferred digital wallet for global users," supporting everything from peer-to-peer payments to international payroll.

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